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## Minds Already Alert

A MAN whom millions, either voluntarily or by compulsion, worshipped as their god has proved to be a mortal one. Death has dealt with him as finally as it does anyone else, so the next human god who rises to take his place is free to make himself even greater in the eyes of his followers, as Stalin did to Lenin.

Thus while the Soviet Union plunges itself into black mourning, there are minds already alert with less sacred thoughts. The machinations of conspiracy, so expertly practiced by Stalin himself, become part of the funeral rites.

This is as it should be.

In the first place, prayers by themselves are somewhat uninspiring in a heathen existence where there is no place to which to consign the spirit of the deceased. At best, the Russians can only pray that Stalin's spirit will wander about the world, seeking out the dark cellars of intrigue. For a spirit of that advanced age this could prove tiresome, and it will probably find more warmth and comfort in the hearts of those Godly believers, whom Communism persecutes but who nevertheless will pray in charity for the eternal rest of the Russian leader.

The conspiratorial background is appropriate secondly for the reason that plotting against one's fellow is inherent in the Communist creed. The omnipotent Lenin, father of the party, personally showed his complete endorsement of this fact when he wrote on his deathbed to his wife: "Stalin must be removed."

That was the grand gesture, the magnificent flourish which revealed the great Communist master true to character right to the end. Had he said something inane like, "May the wish of the people determine who shall lead them," he would not only have done dreadful damage to the whole principle of the cause, but would have failed to set the stage for the Stalin-Trotsky feud which brought the Communist practice of back-knifing to such high art.

Throughout the democracies of the world there will be mourning for Stalin. Much of this will be a generous tribute to a man of recognized administrative ability who, for this and for the inspiration he gave his country in the last war, merits high admiration.

Unfortunately, some of it will also be prompted by a fear that the Russian move to embrace the world will be interrupted, if not altogether halted. Those who mourn for this reason are the shyest mourners who would offer their tears to Stalin with one hand and the blood of their countrymen in Korea with the other.

## OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

The government isn't worrying nearly so much these days over the possibility of another record wheat crop this year. Recent reports of moisture conditions from the West-American as well as Canadian—have never been more unpromising at this time of the year.

The Canadian West hasn't had any substantial moisture since last September. Sections of the country now are so dry that dust storms, reminiscent of the drought years of the thirties, have re-appeared in some regions.

In the Western wheat-growing states the situation is similar. At the present moment American Government wheat authorities agree that even a normal crop during the coming season is most unlikely.

Market-wise, the outlook holds important compensations. Despite record volume of world wheat sales in recent months, the prospect is that when the crop year ends next July 31st a carry-over equivalent to a full year's normal crop will still be on hand. Under those circumstances a bumper crop for this year could hardly avoid wrecking the existing price structure—which growers regard as close to the minimum for profitable operations.

### Jay-Walkers Pay

VANCOUVER — Police started a second campaign against jay-walkers here and in the first seven days handed summonses to 126 alleged offenders. Police superintendent Sydney Lloyd said however that "many first offenders get off with a warning."

But politically the prospect isn't equally pleasing to the St. Laurent Government. Any calamity of crop failure inevitably pulls down the morale of the farmers affected, regardless of the prosperity which may have preceded the loss. Western farmers, furthermore, are inclined to be superstitious about drought after their experiences in the nineteen-thirties. They are afraid of the drought years coming not singly, but in a cycle.

The fear of the Liberals is that a Western crop failure this year will coincide with the Federal general election and that it will find the Prairie voters in a restive mood. That's one reason why the Western Liberals would have liked to have seen polling day advanced to this spring. But with the March 15th deadline for such action now little more than a week away, the possibility of such a move appears not so much remote as non-existent.

### WHEAT AGREEMENT

Meantime, the renewal of the International Wheat Agreement is being pressed with all vigor by the Canadian delegation at Washington. Since his return from his South American trade mission, Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe has made it a point to inform himself of the progress which the Canadian negotiators are making. He reports himself as satisfied and as relatively optimistic.

The Trade Minister says that he believes that an agreement will result on over-all terms of greater advantage than the one now expiring. He has refused to elaborate on that cryptic phrase of "over-all terms of greater advantage."

## As I See It



by  
Elmore  
Philpott

### Business Man Kicks

A VANCOUVER business man registers a strong kick against my plan to increase Canadian sales to Britain:

"Your trick solution for the British dollar shortage is simply another give-away plan. Of course the British would endorse that. Your scheme would saddle the Canadian taxpayer, through the federal treasury with billions of inconvertible sterling."

However, the business man admits "of course the plan would enormously increase the export of Canadian products to Britain."

LET US think of a simple example to show how the plan would work out.

Our Canadian government now owns 29 million pounds of surplus butter bought to keep prices to farmers above the floor of 58 cents per pound. Yet we cannot consume, or sell, the new butter coming on the market even in wintertime.

The U.K. Economic Record for February 1953 states "the present butter ration in Britain is 2 ozs. a week and—given the existing dollar shortage—it seems unlikely that any increase can be expected."

Canada has a huge surplus of butter we can't sell. But Britons can only get two ounces of butter per week because they lack our particular kind of money to buy. Please note that the British have plenty of money, but it is the wrong kind of money. It is the pound sterling and not the Canadian dollar.

MY PLAN is simply to have Canada and Britain do in peacetime what Canada and the United States did during wartime, under the Hyde Park agreement. That is, our governments would agree to keep the overall balance of payments even year by year. No actual cash would change hands.

Let us see how this would work out. Any Britisher who wanted to buy Canadian butter, lumber, wheat, apples, salmon would do so under ordinary business competition. That is, price and quality would have to be right, or there would be no sale.

But Canada would accept sterling for all such sales, but using up her net trade balances year by year by investments in the sterling area.

MY CAUSTIC but friendly critic is all wrong when he infers that in return for our huge surpluses of butter, salmon, lumber etc. we would get nothing but worthless sterling balances on the pages of a ledger in a London bank. The point is, there would be no balances.

Suppose Canada had to make investments at the minimum rate of two or three hundred million dollars per year—for trade runs in our favor by about that amount.

We could buy back on the open market in Britain, or the sterling area such things as our own CPR common stock, which is still largely held in Britain.

We could pay off the very large mortgages on our own property, and redeem British-held bonds, issued by Canadian governments. But more important than that—we could share with our own good hard Canadian cash the risks and privileges of opening up that vast and rich one-fifth of the earth that is still in the Commonwealth.

HATS OFF to Kathleen Elliot, travel agent, 228 Rogers Building, 470 Granville Street, Vancouver. She runs, as a sideline, an admirable gift shop, where every article is hand made by some home-bound, handicapped person.

## Ray Reflects and Reminisces

Reputed to be 105 years of age, and Ireland's oldest woman, Mrs. Bridget McGonagle died the other day. She had never been on a train or bus. One of her sons says she smoked an average of thirty cigarettes a day. Earlier in her life she should have explained her position to a Canadian politician named Abbott.

DON'T MENTION IT WILLIE. NOTICE—The Willie Williams that was sent to jail September 17, 1952, is not the Willie Williams of Community Plumbing Co. Thanks. Thanks.—Advt. in Nassau (Bahamas) Tribune.

When Lenin actually passed away, the Kremlin knew it, but how much of Russia and the rest of the universe? One is apt to think that way today.

A sizeable airport for Prince Rupert on Digby Island is planned, but this is nothing new.

## MILESTONES

40 Years Ago Today  
A giant smokstack 193 feet high will be erected at the G.T.P. Drydock.

At a meeting of the members of the Prince Rupert Rowing and Yachting Club it was decided to fit up the upper deck of the Hazelton as a club house.

30 Years Ago Today  
The city council has authorized sending a delegation to Ottawa to press the requirements of this port, the delegation to consist of Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Hon. A. M. Manson and E. C. Gibbons.

A suggestion has been made that a large part of the grounds in front of the new government building be secured for the purpose of putting in a bowling green.

20 Years Ago Today  
Ex-Mayor S. M. Newton, the former editor and owner of the Evening Empire died in Vancouver.

10 Years Ago Today  
Duncan Johnston arrived from Vancouver to succeed William F. Eve as Administrator of War-time Housing here.

The Prince Rupert Rotary Club voted \$250 to the Red Cross National campaign drive.

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Tugwell Island has already been examined. As a matter of fact the situation is largely unchanged, or as the constable said to the scribe, "I'm quite unable to say anything fresh."

The boy is a natural spectator; he watches parades, fires, fights, planes, football, and hand ball games with equal fervor. And he refuses to watch a clock.

Suppose a squadron takes off from Europe for New York and bombs Montreal in mistake for the American metropolis. Don't say it couldn't happen. Long lines of glittering lights can look impressive in either the United States or Canada and international hatreds are not yet fading.

### BOB AND GARRY

Barry Mather of Vancouver tells about people asking him if he can tell them who Bob Edwards was. We'll wager he can, and sincerely trust he will print a few demonstrations at the same time.

Old Age Security pensions in February reached a new high of \$3,178,480 paid on behalf of 78,978 pensioners. But people want more, of course. Yet for that matter, we can think of lots of times when to imagine being handed hard cash regularly without having worked for it would have made a fellow feel fine.

### EXPLAINING HOSPITAL

The executive secretary of the B.C. Hospital Association Percy Ward says hospital costs have

not increased in 25 years. This is how he makes it. Today's average stay is ten days at \$12.60. It used to be 18 days at \$7. In other words, costs are slashed by inviting a patient to walk out in five days.

### WORTH TELLING ABOUT

It's March, and as twilight lingers longer, so do observers once they climb the lookout on the railway reserve. Many are strangers, and having to guess at what they scrutinize, is not always welcome. Few seaports can show a more superb sweep of scenic charm. But why not tell about it.

William Fraser Toime, in 1870, was the first to introduce thoroughbred livestock to British Columbia.

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**Dwindling Trade**  
EDMONTON — (CP) — George Bourson, 57, is one of the last of Alberta's old-time harness makers. Bourson, who has plied his trade here for more than 50 years, says there is little demand for his craft nowadays.

**Triple Event**  
LACOMBE, Alta. — The Lacombe Hospital, built in 1903, has just registered its first triplets. The babies, all boys, were born to Mrs. Lawrence of Tees, Alta.

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So we bought our "fridge" at the B of M...

My, how I wanted that thing I got to dreaming about it and calling it "our refrigerator," though it still sat in the shop window. We saw it every Saturday night in the Acme Hardware as we walked home from the movies.

John said we couldn't afford it, and was dead-set against selling our one remaining bond or drawing on Aunt Jean's \$200 inheritance we had tucked away in a special savings account to be forgotten except in absolute emergency.

"But, John," I wailed, "we can't go on losing food with that old worn-out fridge. And what about the repair bills you have to pay for it every few weeks?"

He just bit his lip.

That was two weeks ago.

Funny how things happen. Next day I read an item in one of those women's columns about "borrowing and saving" by Personal Planning at the Bank of Montreal. It was about a situation sort of like our own.

So into the local B of M branch I went. Showed

the Manager the clipping from the paper, told him our situation exactly, and in ten minutes he said he thought we could work out the problem without too much trouble. He asked me to bring John in to discuss the full details. As we walked out of his office, he gave me a copy of "Personal Planning".

That book opened our eyes about our finances.

The very next day John and I saw Mr. Easton, the Manager. After a few questions to my husband about his job, his salary—about our bond and our "emergency" bank balance, he said he'd be glad to lend us the \$350 needed for the fridge. He was satisfied we could pay off the loan in a year at \$30 a month, and we arranged to transfer our special savings account to his office and to pledge our bond until the loan was paid.

Mr. Easton talked over the budget-plan John and I had begun to work out... said we were starting out right. "Even though you've got a bank loan," he smiled, "you're really saving your savings."

And that fridge... such a beauty. Already, John and I both call it "MY BANK".

Saving is the only way to move ahead of your worries, and stay ahead. And — sometimes — borrowing at the B of M is the best way to save. Find out how to save despite today's high prices. Ask for your copy of "Personal Planning" at your neighborhood B of M branch. It's yours for the asking.

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