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Not Funny

COMMUNISTS everywhere must be tickled to death by what is happening in the States. The U.S. Army and Senator McCarthy, their most powerful and their loudest adversary respectively, are at war with each other.

If its implications were not so serious, everyone could agree with the Communists that it is a very amusing state of affairs. Put to words and music by some modern Gilbert and Sullivan combination, it could be a great success on the stage.

Unfortunately it is not meant to be, and cannot be, funny. When military leaders with such tremendous responsibilities for the world's safety are backed into a corner by a pugnacious politician, humor gives way to anxiety. What respect can an armed service command abroad have when it is involved in such a squalid back-room skirmish at home? More particularly, what is the damaging effect on the army's own rank and file?

To a certain extent these incidents are inevitable—and even desirable—in countries where there is freedom of discussion and action. Canada had its own painful moments recently when it appeared there were horses on the army payroll.

But the McCarthy campaign is a great deal more than a political embarrassment. It is not a question of what the other party is up to, but how far one can trust one's own colleagues. Private deals are being made and broken at such a rate that here seems to be no unity anywhere.

As an obvious mischief-maker who is working by instinct rather than on principle, McCarthy is certain to lose in the end. But if the end does not come soon, it may be too late.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Hollywood, one hears, is the place where you live happily, and get married every afternoon.

February acted every now and then as if sore about something or other. And so far, any March hares noticed can get good and mad when they feel like it. Which is frequent.

Dr. W. G. Leaman, Jr., Philadelphia physician: Most men are poor drivers. They have too much tension. They jerk around. Their lives are in the hands of anyone who can get them upset. Women are far better drivers.

The perfect guest is the one who has learned the art of gracious leaving.

A gentleman named H. B. Stuck resides in Fort Worth, Texas. He is president of a firm that makes adhesives.

Some day someone will solve the last stage of preventing or curing cancer, but his financial reward is likely to be trivial in relation to the magnitude of his

achievement. Hysterical throngs will mob a movie star in the streets, but the man who conquers lethal diseases will pass along the street unknown and unclaimed.—St. Thomas (Ont.) Times-Journal.

SUFFERS SHOCK
Tobaccoists are saying the scare is on. Shares are down, but in the long run it appears pretty certain cigarette sales will be back to where they were last summer. But have you heard the story of the man who became so horrified at what he was reading of dangers of smoking contributing to development of cancer that he's already given up reading.

All Aboard

A very small boy about two feet high, in a brown jacket and a green woollen cap, is a far greater explorer than Columbus. The navigator only discovered America, but the small boy discovers the world.

He sails his boat of the mind through an unknown sea in which sounds, smells, lights, colors, shapes and textures are new continents.

When he was still a baby, a sunbeam falling through a dirty window pane made him gurgle and flap his little arms with joy.

Now he can run and grab everything, but the small worthless articles seem to please him best. A blob of fluff from under the chestfield, or the crumpled end of a cigarette package, excite him as much as costly toys do.

The little boy holds up each bit of trash as though it were a jewel, and commends it to his mother's and father's attention with his new word: "See." Sometimes he says "See-see," or "See-dada."

A grown-up, tired in the pursuit of more complex satisfactions, feels sad because the little boy is so readily pleased.

The little boy likes to run ahead of his mother when he goes out. He bobbles along on his wee legs through the cavernous passages, of public buildings, and defers to nothing except a locked door.

He sails into offices where important men are wrestling with ideas. Politicians, business men or editors, they are all the same to him; shapes that look somewhat like Dada, but smell of a different kind of tobacco.

He pulls the men's coats. They stop their work to pat his head, and then he sails away again.

You can hear his little voice piping "See-see" as new marvels appear on his horizon: drawers, filing cases, telephones and desks with papers on them. He pulls the drawers open, samples the papers.

Girls run to him and gently extract the papers from his hand, smiling indulgently toward his mother.

To the little boy, weighty machines and possessions are so many objects to be seen and touched. Banknotes and coins are playthings. They shine and feel nice in his grip. He likes them, cries a little when they are taken away, and passes to something else.

People look down on him with great tenderness, as he sails away on that voyage of discovery.

Then he falls and bangs his head, and runs crying to Mama, whose skirts are his home port.

Northern Survey

FLIN FLON, Man. (CP)—Federal Mines Minister Prudham said at a banquet here that aerial survey of the Northwest Territories will be resumed in 1954. About 57,000 square miles of the Keewatin area were mapped in 1952 and this year's work is expected to cover 60,000 square miles.



As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

• O O O Canada

A VANCOUVER READER wants to know if any official version of O Canada has ever been made law in this country.

The answer is, not quite. Parliament has never yet passed a law telling the English speaking people of Canada what words they are supposed to sing when the musicians begin to play the melody of O Canada.

However, the so-called Weir version of O Canada is sung almost everywhere in English-speaking Canada.

TRYING to get at the legal background of O Canada, I came on some most interesting bits of information.

The national anthem, God Save the Queen, has won its present unique place in public esteem throughout the Commonwealth without benefit of laws, passed by parliament. There is, so far as I can find, no law passed by the British parliament which says that people must do such and such, and sing such and such, when the band strikes up that famous tune.

However, there are army, navy and air force regulations which govern its use. Public custom is the strongest law.

Incidentally, we have exactly the same kind of semi-law governing both God Save the Queen and O Canada in our own country. Some years ago the Minister of Defence issued regulations governing not only the royal anthem, but our own Canadian patriotic song, O Canada.

THE U.S.A. had an argument which lasted for a long long time about which song was its rightful national anthem.

It was not till the administration of Franklin Roosevelt that the Star Spangled Banner was finally honored, by law, and made the official national anthem.

Even to this day, few Americans can sing more than a few lines of their national anthem. However, most Britons know only one short verse of God Save the Queen. Churchill himself has told of the scene on a destroyer, just after D-Day. Not a single officer, except himself knew by heart the words of Rule Britannia.

HERE is the best story I ever heard to show why we need one agreed version of O Canada. During the Battle of the Bulge, when Hitler was making his last desperate counter attack, the Germans were using men disguised in Canadian and American uniforms. The brass hats picked a hard boiled regimental sergeant major to sort out the real Canadians from the phonies and spies.

As each man was brought before him the fierce looking RSM would demand:

"Sing O Canada?" If the man sputtered, choked, and muttered something about never learning the words, the fierce looking soldier would relax and declare:

"This guy is a real Canadian alright, he doesn't know the words of O Canada."

Hospital visitors of the Canadian Red Cross regularly distribute cigarettes, cards, stationery, shaving supplies and other comforts to hospitalized veterans.

B. C. Ambulance Service Urged

VICTORIA —An ambulance service for hazardous British Columbia highways was suggested Thursday by Irvine Corbett (SC-Yale).

Mr. Corbett said in the budget debate in the legislature that when drivers get away from the main centres they are without the protection of an ambulance service.

Scow-Loading Base Planned

NORTH VANCOUVER — A new scow-loading base is being built here to speed shipments of prefabricated houses to be assembled at Kitimat. First regular shipments, likely to continue through 1954, will start within a month.

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