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Good Trend and Bad

THINGS are not going so well with the interminable truce talks in Korea which, after the long time they have been so far, appear to be getting nowhere. It is an optimist, indeed, who would still believe that there is much prospect of success of these talks.

However, on the other side of the world things are looking better after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) conference at Lisbon. Five days of deliberation there have been marked by the greatest measure of accomplishment and accord that have yet been achieved by the organization

The picture in Asia, however, is far from reassuring. Korea seems little nearer to a settlement than ever. There is a sudden disturbing turn of affairs in French Indo-China. Events in Indonesia are not encouraging and the Malay situation is ever threatening.

Discounts Red Superiority

THE KNOWLEDGE that the Russians and the Chinese far outnumber the Americans and West Europeans has created the widely accepted myth of Communist superiority in military manpower, declares Kathleen Thayer in the March Reader's Digest.

In an article condensed from The Yale Review, Miss Thayer points out that comparative population figures are not a true gauge of the number of armed men the Communists could muster for all-out war.

Since Russia's birth and death rates are far higher than those of any advanced western nation, the Soviet has a much larger population of babies and children, many of whom will never grow to productive ages. These children are a military and industrial liability, not an asset.

The Soviet Union's inefficiency in agricultural and industrial production, by comparison with western standards, means that proportionately more farmers are needed to grow food and more factory workers to make the goods of war.

The decisive factor in international rivalries, Miss Thayer states, is not gross population nor even manpower in the age limits of maximum vigor. It is a nation's ability to free men from civilian production without lowering the living standard below the level of survival.



HANDOUT FOR KOREANS—Winter is a hungry time in war-torn Korea. Children, pregnant women and the sick line up for their daily milk ration—one bowlful of hot, powdered milk served at mid-day. Only about 100 in a camp of 1,200 refugees at Namyang, near the Yellow Sea, qualify for this ration. (CP from National Defence)

KOREA SURVEY Korean Economy, Out of Kilter, Strikes Civilians

[Editor's Note: Bill Boss, Canadian Press staff writer in Korea, has completed a two-week survey of conditions among the civilian population during the Korean winter. This article is the second of a series based on interviews with United Nations, Korean Republic and civilian sources.]

SEOUL (CP)—The "Land of the Morning Calm," as Koreans call their country, is driving economists crazy. For years they've been taught that plentiful commodities for which there is small demand sell cheaply.

Not this year in Korea. Rice is the staple food and a standard medium of exchange in this country. The 1951 crop was 75 per cent of normal despite the war. The markets are fat with it. The people aren't buying; one-third are on relief and the rest can buy only one-third of what they need.

And then there's cotton. When a commodity is scarce and in great demand, prices usually go up. Now cotton is expensive in Korea but by no means as expensive as it should be by Korean standards.

Korean economists say their economy is stable when one large mal (20 litres) of rice costs as much as one pill (40 yards) of cotton. Right now rice is seven times more expensive, though no raw cotton is being imported for civilian use and almost all weaving capacity is being used for army uniforms.

THREE FACTORS

- 1. Failure of the Republic of Korea to mobilize and control its economy, to gear itself economically for war.
2. The United Nations policy of scaling relief to what it considers the "budgetary capacity" of the Korean government.
3. The Korean Republic's trading on the conscience of the United Nations and trying to avoid civilian unrest by making the refugee problem a UN worry.

GET WESTERN BOOTS

But refugees are issued the much more expensive western army boot or ill-fitting, donated cast-off footwear. Why? Because: 1. The government will not buy shoes for the refugees. 2. The C.A.C. doesn't insist that the government buy the shoes because they aren't "within its budgetary capacity" and also lest government purchases in a free market cause inflation. 3. C.A.C. won't buy them either, because of the same inflation argument.

On the other hand, reverting to rice, C.A.C. says it isn't particularly keen to see a rice-rationing system. Officials say privately that the government hasn't storage and distribution facilities for implementing a controlled program, and enforcing one would mean strengthening a police force already undesirably strong by democratic standards. Amid all this, with poor civilians and refugees suffering from both sides' "hands off" policies, Republic of Korea government employees and the Korean armed



As I See It by Elmore Philpott

Question for Labor

IT SEEMS to me that we are on the very doorstep of a new period in Canada, and that it is going to produce great new problems for the working people.

Trade unions, in particular, should watch their step very carefully in the next few years. Otherwise they are in danger of speeding up trends which are very much AGAINST their members' interests.

THE WORST of these trends is the squeezing out of business of the smaller fellows by the big. We live in a tough age in which it is a case of "survival of the fittest." In terms of 1952 capitalism in Canada that means survival of big newspapers, big logging companies, big retail store chains, big everything from A to Z.

Mayor Whalen is on his way to Ottawa where for two weeks he will be included among the representatives of Canadian cities conferring with the government on the general question of country-wide civilian defence. If civilian defence means anything, it must follow the course now being taken. There will have to be a wide, a comprehensive and well understood plan. Anything less would be largely waste.

Any number of persons living in Prince Rupert hesitate to drive a car. A lot think middle life too old. Is it? Has age laid its crippling hand on you that early? Does sitting at a wheel blight the nerve you thought so steady? In this age, having nothing to do with an automobile because you fear it is surely restricting the varied joys of life.

By this time the swans sent by Victoria authorities to Queen Elizabeth have doubtless arrived. They should not be lonely. The queen, it is said, owns about 600 of the 800 birds already in London.

In August 1914 Prince Rupert knew little about civilian or any other kind of defence. Long before this, it has become drilled into the world that, if there is to be enduring peace by the setting of good examples, pacifism, and all that, we may as well forget all about it.

The News-Herald, recently sold to eastern interests, remains unchanged. That means it stays in the morning field. The News-Advertiser—also of Vancouver—was for many a long year, the breakfast table companion. There was once a morning paper in Prince Rupert, printed near the corner of Third Avenue and McBride Street. But for more than one reason an increasing number of readers seemed to prefer perusing it at bedtime.

The speaker described as basic tools the subjects of English, social studies, mathematics and the vocational subjects each of which had their function in the achieving of the ultimate objects of education. But no matter how many tools the student may have, it still depends upon what kind of a craftsman he is, asserted Mr. Davidson. It was the great function of the school to help the pupil in making the best of the materials at hand and directing his talents along the most effective lines.

Teachers, of course, cannot have all the right answers. We cannot always diagnose our cases correctly, we often fail, but we try hard. One of the strongest aids we have is you people yourselves. We ask of parents—encourage good habits in your children, give them a religious background, faith in their security and, above all, faith in their schools.

STOCKHOLM (CP)—Iron and steel production in Sweden reached record total in 1951. The annual report just issued showed a total of 1,438,200 tons of steel, 1,500,000 tons of cast iron and 851,400 tons of pig iron. Exports of iron ore reached 15,000,000 tons.

"PROTECTION AGAINST INFLATION" Ask your Investment Dealer for the above folder and prospectus of CANADIAN INVESTMENT FUND CALVIN BULLOCK Ltd.

Quick Canadian Quiz 1. On Canada's farms are there more pigs, cattle, horses or sheep? 2. The Governor General represents whom? 3. What one province produces more lumber than all others combined? 4. Tax payments to Ottawa are how much greater than those paid to all provincial and municipal governments combined? 5. When did the United Empire Loyalists come to Canada? ANSWERS ON PAGE FOUR

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JURY FINDS... Continued from page 1. investigated the... immediately after it... panel truck and... were "in working... When asked if... in "good condition... stated he was... and couldn't give... He said... authority to... the Kernano... party, he was... attached to the... department. Stepanovich... ever told him... was driving "off... in the course of... day of the accident... ing the panel... ace to have the... ed. Just prior to... hicle, mechanics... pairing the engine... had been sticking... said he was... thing was working... when he started... vehicle was in... The motor was... The safety check... anovich had... from service... ing the accident.

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