

Need For Civil Defence

IT IS disturbing to reflect that less than 10 years after one great war we must now simulate another. The civil defence exercise, held jointly by Canada and the U.S.A. is a bitter reminder that the world's trial by fire may not yet be ended.

But it is a reminder that must be made. If this country is not safe from attack, it would be inviting our own destruction to pretend otherwise. Although we would like to think there is no danger, it is not a condition that can be wished away.

Some idea of official thinking on the subject can be gained from the scope of the exercise. Preparations must have extended back over a considerable period to stage a mock attack of such proportions. The planning would have to range all the way between the smallest local group and the international level. Hundreds of man hours must have been spent to ensure that the affair was the most accurate possible enactment of the real thing.

But the planners worked under two serious handicaps. One was that Canadians and Americans have never been bombed on their home soil. The other was the unknown effect of atomic warfare.

In the last war the Japanese were the only victims of atom bombs, and since then development of the weapon has gone so far that any previous experience probably offers little measure for judging what a future attack would do. Scientists may be able to estimate accurately the extent of the blast, but who can make any worthwhile guess about its psychological impact? Applied to countries which have been spared bombing of any kind, the problem must end with a very large interrogation mark.

But instead of being allowed to confuse the situation, these factors should be looked upon as making it more important than ever that everything be done to go along with the civil defence organization. Our civil defence holds out the best hope that there will be some method for the madness, some life in the form of death.

Let us not delude ourselves into thinking it cannot happen here. It can.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

No matter how far the value of the dollar drops, it will not go lower than some people stoop to get it.

On what Ottawa calls a first visit to Canada General Alfred M. Gruenther, supreme commander of the allied powers in Europe, has been spending a few days on this side of the Atlantic. Speaking of Soviet Russia he remarked an attack in 1954 would meet defeat although he admitted it would be "a difficult success." Not overdoing anything or anybody.

BLUE MONDAY

Not only did it look an early hour to start work. It was. Seven a.m. Monday was plenty fresh as the big yellow bus rolled to a stop and the crowded cafe found new seats. Somehow, looking back over the commencement of any week gives one a better feeling.

When the drydock and shipyard at Prince Rupert was being built, that fact alone brought many hundreds of strangers, and induced them to put their money here and stay with the town. What would have been thought could it have been known then that the splendid plant would be seen advertised for sale in the summer of 1954.

Mikhail Aivazoff, born in Tiflis (Russia) 89 years ago, was one of the early builders of Prince Rupert. He died recently, his photo being in the Vancouver Sun. He is said to have made three fortunes and lost that many as well.

People were supposed to be air raid minded on Monday in most of British Columbia's cities but if one can judge from close observation everyone here was calm and collected. Sirens were said to be sounding from coast to coast but speaking generally when the time comes to lay low and keep cool, we do that anyway, particularly the latter part.

The United States press persists in declaring the recession "has about run its course." Declarations like this have been expected and that from now on

better business conditions can be looked for. Ever hear of depression? We have. Anyway, it's an old and - - - other authorities allege that dictatorries claim depression also means a sense of sinking, a feeling of lowered vitality, a diminution, a humbling, a degradation, a withdrawal and seclusion. But then, recession "has run its course." Hasn't Washington said so.

A farm beautified with flowers and gardens and lawns and kept that way is of enhanced value. The farmer can do more and he ought to be happier and healthier. The farmerette is more widely informed and enjoys more friendships.

Vancouver letter carriers report having been bitten by dogs no fewer than forty times since early in the year. When mail is being dropped, Carlo's teeth can hurt like blades when they snap at, or close on the postal fingers.

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As I See It

BY Elmore Philpott

Gruenther Visit
GENERAL GRUENTHER'S visit to Ottawa was a great success. The NATO Supreme Commander impressed all the Canadians he met as the best type of American military man—not looking for trouble, but calmly competent to meet it if it comes.

The General met the press publicly and had off-the-record discussions with the Cabinet and the MPs and Senators generally. There was nothing new or startling in the facts and figures supplied by the General. But the NATO commander was able to draw the picture, especially of Europe, so clearly that everyone in the Capital now has a much better idea of what is what.

AS I think over what we heard from General Gruenther, I feel the real danger is not so much from attacks by the potential enemy but from lack of unity and confusion of purpose, among the NATO allies.

As of now, Russia could not start a war with any hope of ultimate victory. On the contrary, one of the greatest deterrents to any such attack is the absolute, positive certainty that within a few hours of the beginning of such an attack whole cities and industrial areas in Russia would be wiped out.

The far greater danger is that the western alliance should come apart at the seams. The world Communist power bloc could extend its domain by a succession of civil wars, such as the present one in Indo-China. Or powerful partners now in NATO could become broken links instead of strong links in the chain of mutual defence.

France, for instance, is the greatest danger spot in NATO precisely because she has bogged down in a confused war in far off Asia, where the whole terrible truth can be summed up in one sentence: She can't win, and she can't quit.

Yet the quicksand war in Indo-China, effectively paralyzes at least half the potential strength that France could put into the mutual defence of Europe.

And precisely because the peril to France is so grave, and because so much of France's strength is drained off to Indo-China, potential German strength looms all the larger in Europe—with complications to everybody, but above all, France.

NOBODY has all the answers to the problems of the western alliance. But some of the answers are already quite clear.

One thing we need is some better means of consultation among ordinary people of NATO countries.

Day after day Canadians read about their next door neighbors and close allies, the Americans. Can anybody say that most of what we read in the papers or hear over the radio, makes us like the Americans better or trust them more as allies?

Apart, altogether from the hideous spectacle of the rise of McCarthyism, most of the things that we hear and read about are such as deal with troubles or negative aspects of life.

Yet if we get in a room with the best type of American, such as General Gruenther, we feel an immediate and real sense of kinship. We feel that he talks and thinks just as we do. We feel that he wants exactly the same things in the world as we want—and what is far more important, we get to know that he

would never start something which we all would not approve.

IT WOULD be a good thing if groups of MPs of all the NATO countries should meet together once a year or so and talk over our common problems.

Also, it would be a good thing if at least half of the session of such meetings were held in private, free from the glare of publicity. For if you are going to have really frank and heart-to-heart talks you can often do that better away from the glare of TV cameras, radio microphones or newspaper reporters.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

A veteran Parliament Hill commentator remarked the other day that, for an institution that was supposed to be concerned about rallying public support to its side, the moribund Senate had a strange way of going about things.

He was referring to the archaic Red Chamber's flat rejection of the proposal of one of its own members—Senator Neil McLean of New Brunswick—that it give clause-by-clause consideration to the new Bank Act sent to it from the Commons for concurrence.

There's a consensus of opinion in impartial Parliament Hill circles that the Senate weakened itself still further before the bar of public opinion when it refused to give even serious consideration to the New Brunswick Senator's proposal.

Senator McLean's argument was that the Senate employed the clause-by-clause method in handling lesser bills, notably the minor divorce bills that go through the chamber by the hundred every session. That being normal procedure, his senses of proportion and of propriety were outraged by the proposal to "railroad" a measure upon which the economy of the country must rest in important degree until the next scheduled Bank Act revision some ten years hence.

The work-shy Senators believed, of course, that they had an answer to the New Brunswick Senator's argument. Before considering before them the bill had been considered clause-by-clause for some months in the House of Commons. They were prepared to take the thoroughness of the Green Chamber's work for granted, without seeking to improve upon it.

The fact is, however, that one of the main arguments advanced on behalf of the Senate in recent years has been its potential

Report From PARLIAMENT

By E. J. Applewhite

It was our privilege this week to entertain Mrs. Godfrey, who is a sister of A. N. Dando, President of the Smithers and District Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Godfrey and I are both former residents of Nelson, B.C., so we had a wonderful chat about places and people "back home in British Columbia."

The Minister of Transport has made very clear the position with respect to weather observations on Digby Island. When the initial surveys were being undertaken for an airport on Digby Island, the meteorological service of the Department of Transport investigated the possibility of establishing weather observing points on various islands in the area. But it was soon found that the establishment of far more on topography and that a special weather survey was not required. I can assure you, however, that weather observations will be continued by marine radio station on Digby Island. The Minister confirms that there has been no indication in any of

the reports that weather conditions are such that they would, in themselves, prohibit the construction of an airport on Digby Island. I trust that this information will clarify any misunderstanding there may have been regarding the weather survey.

I gather from newspaper reports that Frank Anfield, our popular Indian Superintendent and hard working citizen, will soon be leaving Prince Rupert; and I cannot pass up this opportunity to say publicly how greatly he will be missed in our city not only in his branch of government service, but in very many other fields of public endeavor.

And while I am on the subject of personalities, I would like to mention the thrill I got out of seeing the photograph of Corporal Don Dumas in various newspapers.

The latest activities of Mr. Nehru seem to indicate a significant change in his neutralism, as voiced at the recent Conference of Southeast Asian Prime Ministers in Colombo. Until his recent speech admitting that the West has an undoubted interest in what happens in Asia, in his speeches at least, he seemed to have ignored this undoubted fact, almost to have regarded the Western Powers' legitimate interests as an attempt at interference in the Asiatic peoples' exclusive affairs. The Colombo Conference persuaded him that the Great Powers now meeting at Geneva—the United States, Britain and Russia, as well as Communist China—have the right to participate in any settlement for peace in Indo-China. Since they are delivered in obscure places and seldom reported, it is little realized in the Western World that Mr. Nehru's recent speeches to his own people

have bitterly condemned the Indian Communist Party as the tool of Moscow.

I have been making some inquiries to find out whether there is any possibility of financial help from here for the new Prince Rupert Museum building—but it seems that museums (except the National Museum) are not within the purview of any Dominion department. I note that our Museum is holding a tag day on July 3. I am sure we all hope that that, and the Museum's other projects will be very successful.

Just a few hours before I started to write these notes, Mr. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced in the House the signing of an agreement with Italy, by one of the terms of which, the Italians make available \$2,000,000 for the purchase of canned salmon. This action was encouraged by the reduced prices at which canned salmon has been selling in Europe.

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