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H-Bomb and Windshields

WHATEVER scientists decide is causing the mysterious outbreak of windshield pock-marking, there is certain to be general belief that H-bombs are involved.

For that matter, it does not take anything nearly so strange to convince many that the bombs are having a wide effect on our physical world. When Prince Rupert had its prolonged spell of clear weather last month, there were those who theorized that this pleasant state of affairs could be attributed to the south Pacific explosions. No doubt other communities have noted changes in their weather with similar curiosity.

As long ago as the first A-bomb there was serious concern over its possible effect on the world's birth-rate. The fear also has been expressed that the day will come when it will be unsafe to eat saltwater fish, or even to go for a seaside dip.

Perhaps this is overestimating the strength of the bombs, but certainly there is little comfort in the thought that major countries apparently are trying to scare each other by experimentation. Each probably has an idea how much the earth's atmosphere and waters can stand before they are completely contaminated but unless the explosions are rationed, each will go the limit on its own with unhealthy results for everyone.

While there may be no connection between H-bombs and pitted windshields, we hope the experts will not be too precise about it. If the world becomes convinced that thermonuclear ash is falling all about it, it may bring quicker international agreement that the study of blowing man off the face of the earth has gone far enough.

Whither, Ships of State?

THE iron-bound state of the government mind in both Ottawa and Edmonton, with regard to the Big Bend route of the Trans-Canada Highway, is something to behold. Ottawa says no change of route is contemplated. Highways Minister Gordon Taylor, speaking for the Alberta government, echoes that there has been "no intimation" from Ottawa of a change in the British Columbia route. What are they going to do? "Proceed according to plan" and then watch the highway disappear under 160 feet of water created by a hydro-electric lake on the Columbia River?

The hydro-electric work has been officially decided upon by the governments in Ottawa and Victoria, with U.S. agreement. The dam on Mica Creek, which is to be built first, will flood a large part of the Big Bend route. It therefore appears out of the question. Yet there is not a word from the federal government, Alberta or B.C. about choosing an alternative.

Meanwhile, the best of all possible routes in Canada—the Yellowhead—is waiting for a bid. It would be much the easiest to build and to keep open during the winter. It offers a scenic approach through Jasper Park in Alberta and a scenic line through B.C. What is more, it is the one route which could assure Canada, in case of emergency, of a sound military highway across the mountains. Is this needed? To answer that question, Canadians have only to remember how often rail passage across the mountains is interrupted by snow and rock slides and how easily both railway lines could be broken by sabotage.

Is it too much to hope for some recognition of realities by our governments and a little flexibility of mind? Or are they determined on a mulish course into a blind alley? If they keep passing the buck, they'll be passing the bailing bucket on the Big Bend a few years hence.

—Edmonton Journal

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

It has long been asserted and confidently at that, that "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." But we laugh out loud today, and why not? Modern engineering magic would reduce the sow's ear to its chemical components, and out of them would come Sowercon, a new miracle fabric for purses, which would be even finer than ordinary silk, and give up to nine times as much wear.

The Aluminum Company of America is suggesting that Canada sell part of the waters of the Yukon river. The water thus alienated would be tunnelled to the proposed site of the aluminum plant near Skagway. But first of all where do the governments of Canada and British Columbia come in? There are questions of policy which might be subject to differences of opinion.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philbott

The Spy War

ON A single day, three big news stories attested to the fact that the big power struggle is now reaching a new high in intensity.

The U.S. publicized the suspension of its own top atomic scientist. Australia witnessed a belated replica of our own Gouzenko case of 1946; and Mr. Gouzenko himself reiterated his plan for the allies to organize mass desertion of Soviet officials.

THE SPY and counter-spy business has always been a nasty affair. War is as old as the history of humanity—and from the very earliest records we get stories of ancient spies.

The penalty for being a spy has always been death. The reward for helping the spy-agent of another country than you own has always been high too. The very first books of the Holy Bible told how the children of Israel captured certain cities by the plain device of treachery; and also how the traitors within the gates were rewarded by having their lives spared, when all the other inhabitants of the doomed cities were slaughtered.

NATIONS HAVE always fostered the legend that their spies were noble heroes, and the other fellow's spies are fiends and devils incarnate.

The important fact to remember right now is that the world is engaged in the most furious and dangerous armament race in the whole history of mankind. Spies have always been deadly—but the successful work of spies, in our own time, could lead to disaster on a scale that the mind can hardly measure.

The one thing certain is that so long as the big power struggle goes on, the spy war will get worse and worse, as will all other kinds of competition. It is naive to think that the western powers could organize the desertion of large numbers of Soviet citizens, but that the same process would not work the other way around too.

MANY NEWSPAPERS and MPs are asking about the status of Mr. Gouzenko himself. Canada was glad to give sanctuary to Mr. Gouzenko, because he did render a great service to our country, by supplying documentary evidence of the considerable spy network which his fellow countrymen had organized in this country. This country went to considerable expense to supply special protection for Mr. Gouzenko—the idea being that his family would change its name and that he could therefore live a new life in safety and peace. However, Mr. Gouzenko has made it clear that that fade-out-of-sight status does not suit him at all. If you go to the movies these days you are likely to see Mr. Gouzenko, with his head in a bag like the famous French character "the man in the iron mask."

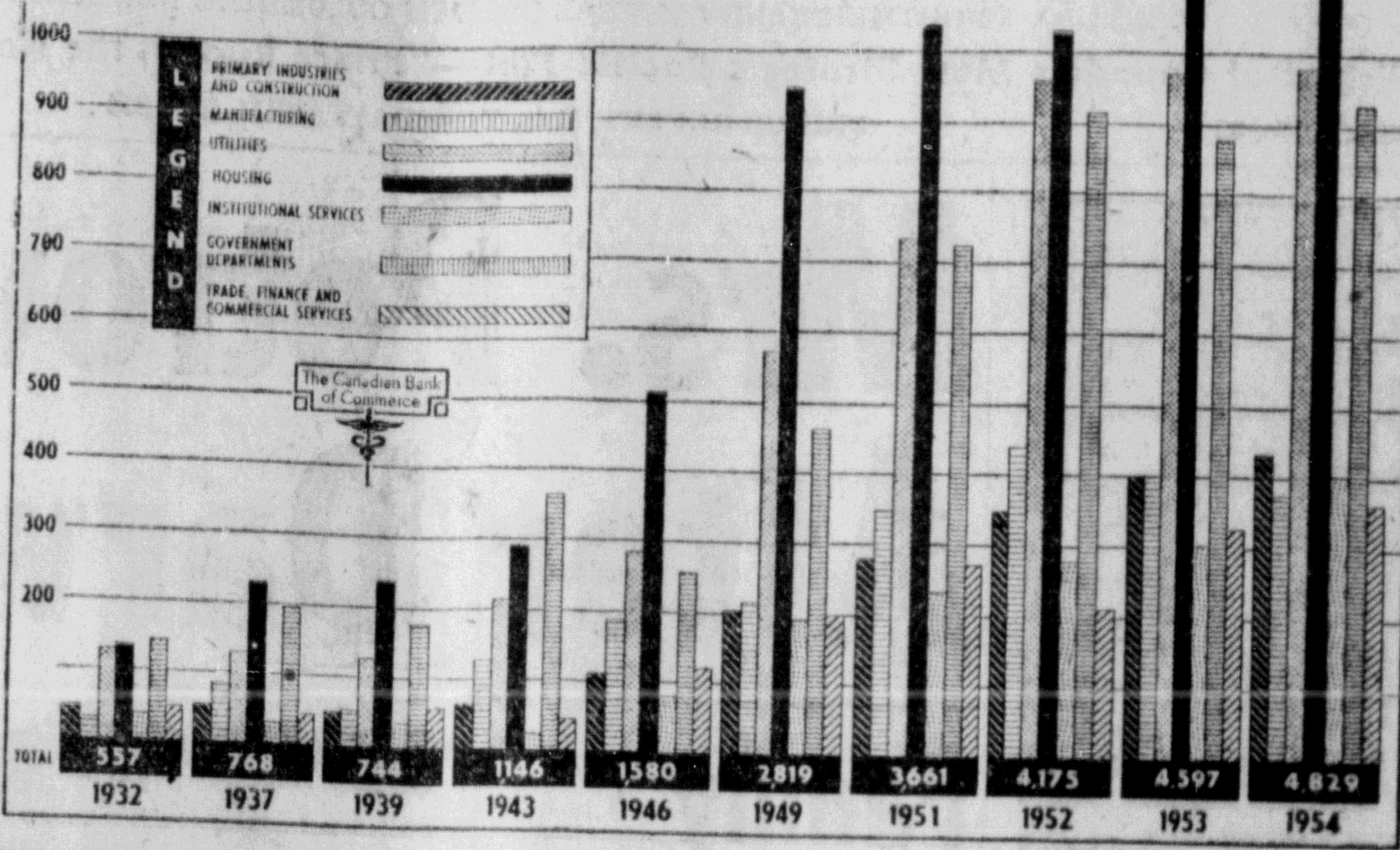
It would seem that Mr. Gouzenko is seeking to make the best of two worlds. He wants both the safety of anonymity, and he wants to be in the movies, on the front pages and on the TV screen too.

HERE IS a newspaper legend, for which I can't vouch, but which tells its own story nevertheless.

An American newspaperman was sent to Alberta to write a series of articles on the oil boom. In a beer parlour he bumped into friendly Canadians who freely volunteered the information that they were the near neighbors of Mr. Gouzenko—and suggested that it would be easy for the newspaperman to arrange a series of interviews. Maybe that is just a legend—just a myth—and maybe it is not.

One of chemistry's important contributions to public safety is the development of fire retardant paints, now used in industrial plants and in the interiors of television and radio receivers.

Expenditure on Construction, by Classes Selected Years



Atomic Energy Now Invading Printing Arts

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Atomic energy has gone long hair, invading the field of fine arts for what may be a significant advance in the printing art.

Three Louisiana State University researchers have put radioactive particles to work in a new fine arts process called "electron printing." It produces unbelievably accurate prints from a radio-active original.

"We think this is the first use of atomic energy for artistic and aesthetic purposes," said Mrs. Caroline Durieux, one of the inventors. She describes the invention, for which a patent application has been filed, as a process for making fine arts prints, expertly and inexpensively, with a radio-active ink.

The artist simply draws, paints or sketches the original in radio-active ink, then presses it against photographic paper in a darkroom to produce finely detailed copies. They are truer than a photographic print, more precise and cheaper than lithographs and require less complicated equipment than any known reproductive process.

No lens or negative is involved in the operation. Invisible beta rays, shooting off from the radio-active ink, transfer the drawing to photographic paper by direct contact, producing a mirror image.

"The process gives an amazing graduation of tone from white to black," says Mrs. Durieux. "By using different isotopes and varying the surfaces on which we draw, this new technique gives effects not obtained by other print media."



HMCS ONTARIO which returned to Esquimalt recently is shown while on her Australian and Pacific cruise, berthed at Dunedin, New Zealand, during visitors' day. It was the first time that a Canadian warship had ever visited this New Zealand port. (National Defence Photo)

Two Survive

READING, England (Reuters)—Only two babies survived today of the 15 newly-born infants dragged from a blazing maternity ward here Easter Sunday, and they are dangerously ill in oxygen tents.

Four more babies died today after doctors had worked all night on the smoke-choked little victims, all of whom had been carried from the burning nursery by nurse Freda Holland.

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Looking back upon the session up to the time of the Easter adjournment, shrewd observers in these parts are inclined to award the CCF top marks amongst the three major parties in the matter of smart political footwork.

The Socialist sub-amendment to the budget is a case in point. Actually, what the Socialists did was simply take the PC amendment in toto, add one clause favoring a Dominion-Provincial conference—the Conservatives already had favored one—and a second clause urging increased taxes on higher bracket incomes.

Politically, that was a clever sub-amendment. But the CCF inventively didn't stop there. In addition, by the simple expedient of refraining from debate, the Socialists contrived to have their amendment voted upon in a matter of a few hours, instead of having to wait for the customary several days. As a result, the PCs didn't even have a chance to caucus on it and decide what their stand would be. Instead, they had to make up their minds on the spur of the moment. They took their cue from Leader George Drew and voted against the sub-amendment. The reasoning back of Drew's decision was that Conservatism should vote on the opposite side from Socialism as a matter of principle.

Admittedly it was a Hobson's

ANCIENT OBSERVANCE

Decision that Easter should be kept on the same Sunday throughout the world was made at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

choice. But the way the whole situation turned out, it yielded the CCF the following items of major ammunition for future political use:

(1) The spectacle of both old-line parties voting solidly together—clear evidence, the CCF will argue, of their essential sameness and of the necessity of turning to Socialism any time a real change in policy is wanted by the voters.

(2) The spectacle of the PCs refusing to favor increased taxes on wealth, even although the refusal involved the repudiation of the whole program which, just a few hours previously, they had recommended to Parliament as being urgently desirable.

Actually, the PCs are finding their position in Parliament increasingly difficult because of the CCF. As a party standing for free enterprise economics and business principles, they don't like to be caught voting with the Socialists. But they aren't very much, if any, happier about voting with the government. It is difficult for them to claim to be an alternative to a government which they support with their votes.

The CCF appreciate the plight of the PCs. And they are not above exploiting it, using in the process a high degree of political talent. It's one of the most interesting political situations in the Capital.

THE LETTERBOX

MISSSES OLD CUSTOM

The Editor,

The Daily News:

For all progress there is some forfeit. Like all citizens I was in favor of the house to house delivery of mail and am still for it.

However, I miss the old cordiality, the pleasant smile and a "good morning" one used to receive in the Post Office.

When I go to the Post Office now, which is only used for stamps, etc., I might as well be in another city. I seldom see any of the old friends and acquaintances and hear the news that doesn't get into the newspaper.

One would stop me and say "Have you heard of 'so and so,' he's doing well in his new location," or "Jim is out of hospital." I even kept up to date on old neighbors who had moved to the old country.

Now I get my mail and there it ends. Before I got news from dozens of letters that were not sent to me but the sender would be glad I had heard of him or her, even though indirectly.

I wonder how many have missed the little interesting items passed along when picking up their mail.

A 40-year habit broken, just like that...

H. R. HILL,

Prince Rupert.

Western Europe Going All Out On Air Power

LONDON (AP)—Western Europe is spending more money on air power than ever before in peacetime.

Allied strategists believe that if war comes the first blinding phase will be fought out between giant atomic air fleets.

The western European nations are building protective umbrellas of jet fighters, but the theory is some bombers would get through. So statesmen such as Prime Minister Churchill frankly are preparing to fight if necessary through crippling devastation.

To deter attack, Britain's Royal Air Force is creating a powerful counter-punch, a spanking new fleet of atomic jet bombers.

The West European countries plan this year to put more than one fourth of their defence budgets—about \$3,000,000,000—into their air forces.

BUILD ATOMIC BOMBERS

British spending on air power this year will include hundreds of millions for the development of supersonic, missile-firing fighter planes and atomic weapons to be carried by the new Valiant, Victor and Vulcan medium jet bombers. The Valentines already are coming off the production lines and atomic bombs are stored for their use.

France and the other allies on the continent are adapting their growing air power primarily to support the ground formations and for interception. This calls for plenty of fighters and light bombers.

The French Air Force, which will be expanded from 30 to 38 wings in 1954 and then to 51 wings with 1,000 frontline aircraft the following year, gets 24 per cent of the defence budget.

Neutral Sweden, whose fighter squadrons rank in West Europe only behind those of the RAF, has earmarked 34 per cent of her record peacetime budget estimate of \$389,768,000 to air power.



Easy way to tap sap

CANADIAN farmers know the struggle, at maple sugar time, of hauling the sap to the sugar house—especially if there has been an early thaw. So we were interested in hearing how one farmer, who used aluminum tubing for summer irrigation, also used it as a spring pipeline to carry the sap from his trees to the sugar house some distance away.

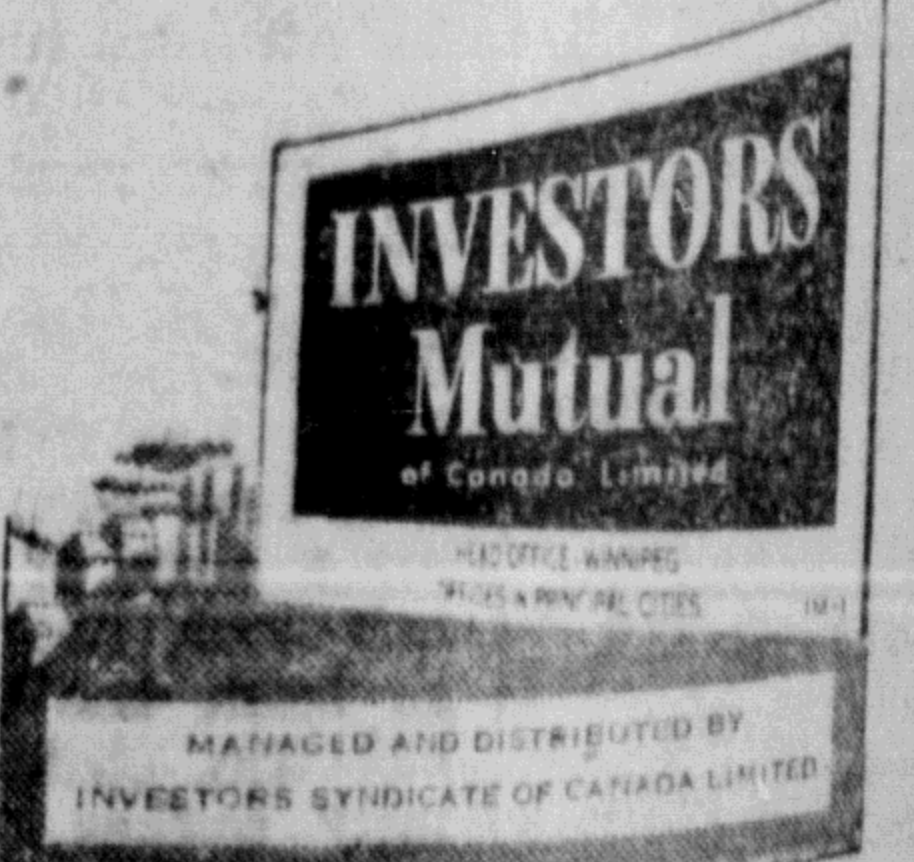
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