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Education Comes First

WITH 700 delegates meeting at the annual convention of the B.C. Teachers' Federation in Vancouver last week, our attention was focussed on the important business of education.

Until some lively issue arises like the Rolston formula or the dismissal of the editor of Effective Living, education is apt to be deprived of the place it deserves in public consideration. There is a certain general attitude that the schooling of our children, though admittedly running into problems from time to time, is on reasonably safe ground and that there is no particular urgency about making whatever corrections are indicated. Children, after all, are fairly robust creatures who can, always get along somehow.

A closer look at the situation reveals that this complacency is entirely unjustified. Our schools are not on safe ground and there is an urgency to do something about it.

The two great dangers are shortage of well-qualified teachers and lack of accommodation for the rapidly increasing number of pupils.

The swelling flood of school enrolments, having filled our elementary grades to the bursting point in the immediate postwar period, is about to descend on the higher grades and secondary schools. A forecast made from a special survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics predicts that within 12 years the secondary school enrolment in Canada will be more than double the present 300,000. The prediction is based on the number of births and the estimated number of children remaining in school until 17, and makes some allowance also for immigration. Immigration in 1951 was sufficient to add 10,000 pupils to secondary schools in the early 1960's.

Since B.C. is the fastest-growing province in Canada and is likely to maintain its rapid pace, the problem in this province will probably be more acute than in any other. By the same reckoning, Prince Rupert is more likely to feel the pressure than the average Canadian city.

For these reasons, as well as for others less pressing, it is imperative that provincial education receive priority attention from here on in. Our Parent-Teacher Associations and school boards have generally shown themselves alert to the dangers, and it is incumbent on all political parties to give the matter the same kind of thought.

B.C. may become the most prosperous province in Canada, but unless its children have the benefit of a good education its wealth will have no meaning.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."—I Sam. 3:9.

LETTERBOX

RE-AWAKENED HOPE

Editor, Daily News:
Firstly, let me thank you for the opportunity you gave those who advocated peace and world unity a chance to place before the public their point of view. I may say you have re-awakened the hope that the press can be the medium of arousing the masses to a realization of their duty towards any movement who's intent was a better world.

I am afraid like many more I had reached a stage of cynicism viewing the press as an instrument of the privileged few instead of a help for the masses. I read your leading article on Ray Gardner's meeting with great interest. It was clear that you must have been present and that you must have known Mr. Gardner intimately in the past as you drew a comparison of him then and now.

Now your remarks remind me of a very old story I learned on my mother's knee of another brilliant zealot who inspired by a conviction of the Holiness of his religion and the fact that he belonged to God's chosen race, ruthlessly persecuted the first converts to the new internal policy of the Universal Brotherhood of Man.

He suddenly saw the light and in spite of everything, the hatred of the High Priests and rulers, completely reversed his attitude and became a tireless advocate of the new way of life. One fact brought out at Mr. Gardner's meeting was the tremendous response internationally of the Peace Movement. I believe the number of signatures was in the region of 600,000,000.

This figure staggers one. A little calculation would help to understand what this means—if this army were to march four abreast down Third Avenue at ordinary infantry pace night and day for months.

I am convinced that this has had a marked effect on the leaders of all countries and is in no small measure responsible for the renewed signs of world peace and with the assistance of the press this can be speeded up by informative measures.

The next important fact which was revealed at the meeting was that a billion dollar trade is available to those countries with sufficient acumen and business instinct to close with the offer.

We know that there are other countries who have the goods necessary, so if we don't close and grasp the opportunity others will and we'll retain our stock of unsold and unsaleable goods. So it boiled down to the basis of Christianity "The Universal Brotherhood of Man" World Trade and Peace.

W. D. GRIFFITHS.

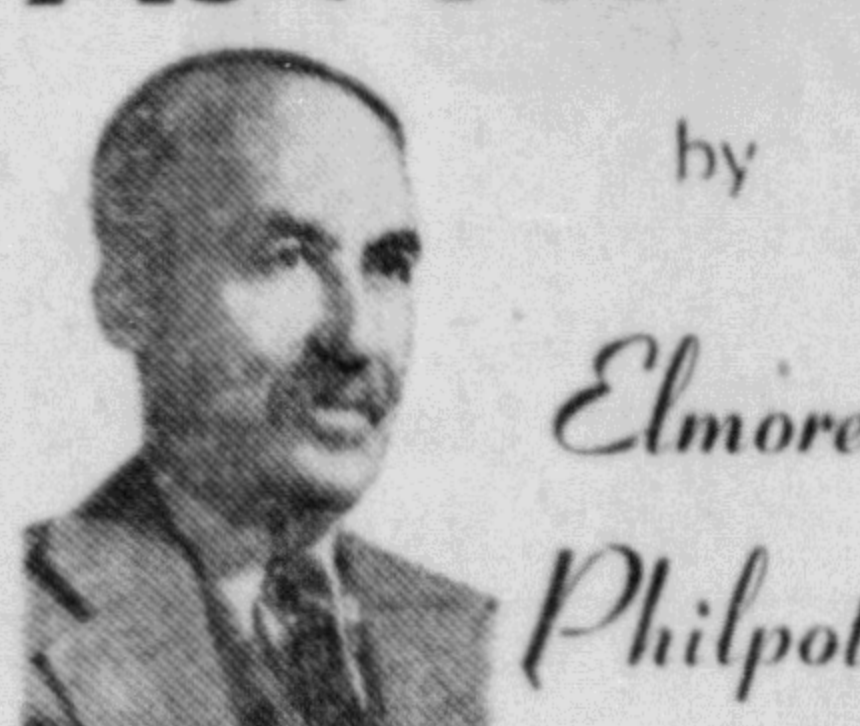
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As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Snow in Arizona

AN EDITOR down in Arizona is apparently getting ready to offer me a job!

The editor of the Arizona Star writes:

"The folk in western Canada surely read your column." It seems so many readers sent him my columns, correcting his ideas about Canada's war effort, that he thought a Canadian snowstorm had hit Arizona. He didn't mind the "snow" but the letters were a bit tough.

Anyway, the whole argument cleared the air. At least some of our American cousins learned that Canadians are not slackers; that our armament taxes are higher than theirs—and that we have given away to our allies about as much proportionally as has the U.S.A.

But maybe we up here in Canada have learned a lesson too. Maybe we have learned that Canada had better get busy and tell our defense effort story to our next door neighbors. Maybe we had better divert half that money we are now spending on propaganda beamed behind the Iron Curtain, to matter-of-fact information designed to tell the U.S.A. the score.

I HOPE and pray that we get early peace in Korea for all reasons. But one reason is because we in the western alliance must reach a more solid, integrated set-up than we have today.

Canadians have chafed at the fact that the whole direction of the war and peace negotiations in Korea has been in U.S. hands. There are a good many of us who suspect that there were some quite powerful interests in the U.S.A. who were not very anxious for early or outright peace in Korea. But for the war in Korea they never would have been able to get through the mammoth armament program that is now in high gear. Some of these elements may still fear peace.

But the Americans have had a real grievance too—and unless Canadians face up to that grievance we could run into some nasty trouble in future.

The average American just can't see why Canada with roughly ten percent the population of U.S.A. should not have put in the field roughly one-tenth as many men as did the U.S.A.

AMERICANS and Canadians must face the fact that the two grievances cannot be considered separately.

Canada emphatically rejected Mr. Meighen when, as Conservative leader he issued his famous (and fatuous) declaration "Ready Aye Ready." That was back in 1922 when Lloyd George and Churchill wanted a blank cheque from Canada—giving them power to plunge us into war with Turkey because the Turks were then chasing the British out of Turkey!

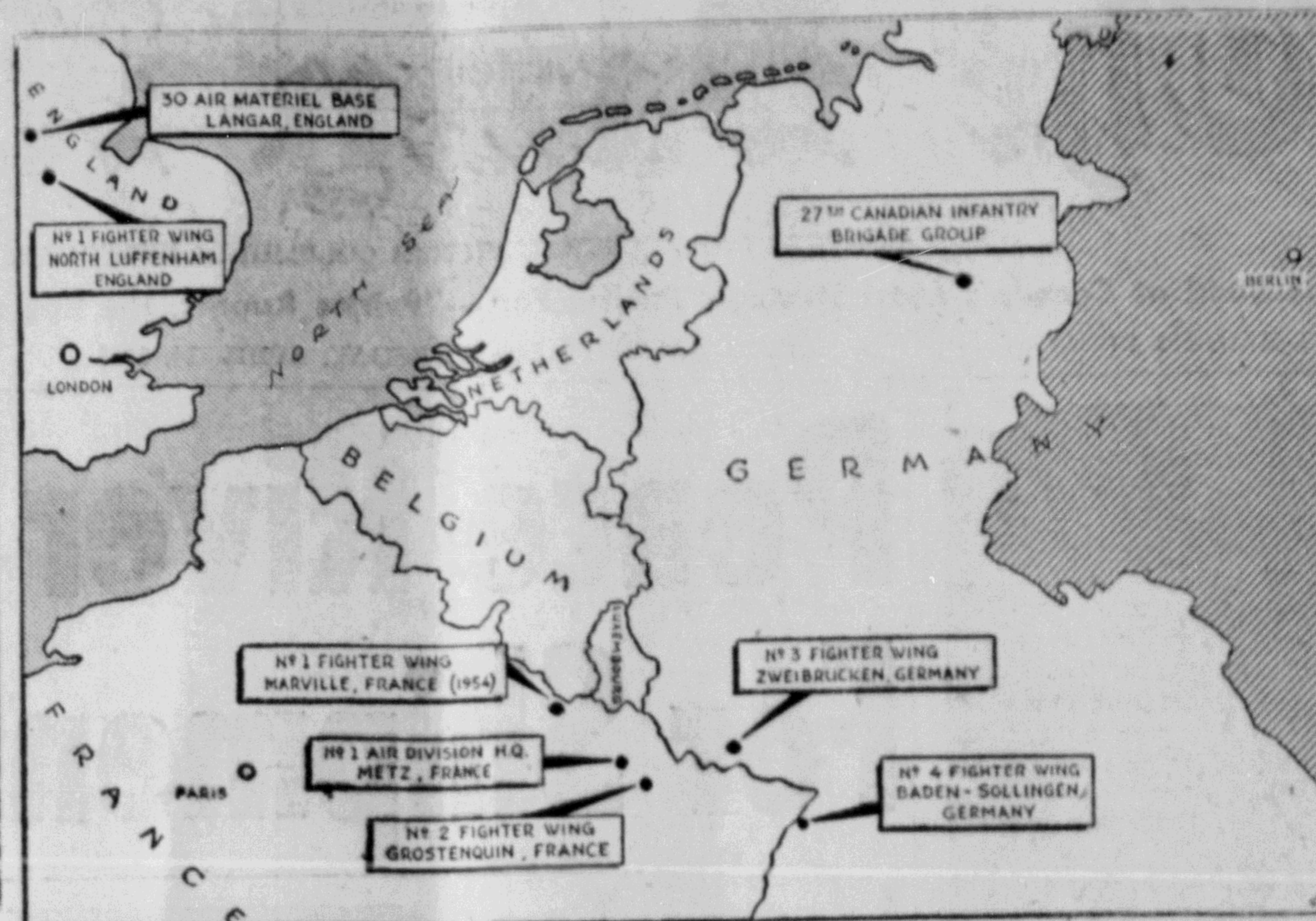
That phrase "Ready, Aye Ready" damned the Conservatives for years in Canada.

But Americans know nothing of our Canadian history. They do not understand our fierce anti-colonial sentiments and cannot seem to get it through their heads that we did not fight and win our hundred year struggle against Downing Street rule only to fall for the new colonialism which Uncle Sam now seems to push at us.

BUT CANADA must soon make a fundamental decision on the other half of the argument.

If we convince Uncle Sam (as we must) that we won't stand for "Taxation Without Representation"—that we want a full fair voice in the general war and peace decisions of all western allies—we must agree, I feel, to promise dollar for dollar, plane for plane, ship for ship, and man for man—on basis of capacity.

The Spanish explorer Menendez founded a settlement at St. Augustine, Fla., in 1565.



PLAYING AN IMPORTANT AND GROWING PART in NATO defence plans are the Canadian Army and Air Force bases in western Europe. Located at Hannover in West Germany is the Army's 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, under Brigadier J. E. C. Pangman, DSO, ED. Some 6,000 strong, this forms part of NATO's northern army group, British Army on the Rhine. Shown also are the various air bases.

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

This summer will see something new and novel in entertainment. The name will be "Saskatchewan." It will be filmed in Canada and the subject matter will deal with pioneering in Canada. There's plenty of space for everybody and everything and this includes the Mounties.

Wales wants its own parliament after having had 699 years of English rule. Well, we've all heard that old saying "He who hesitates is lost."

SEEMS THAT WAY
It seems a Milwaukee man dropped a \$5 bill in a sewer, and

fishing around for it with a rake, brought up a bill for \$1. There is not the slightest question about inflation becoming worse.

A British Army magazine called "Soldier" says men in uniform do not know how to swear. Colorful profanity is on the wane. The new generation lack talent. Perhaps it's just as well. We can recall quite a few Tommies who were first rate fellows, but how they cursed the — and how no one had — any — for the bloody — er.

"Oklahoma" tunelessly observed its tenth anniversary this month.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The question that remains unspoken but is very much in Parliamentary minds these days is: What part did Argentina play in the now disappointing negotiations of the past several months in Washington for a new International Wheat Agreement?

To put the matter more specifically, Western MP's here would like to know whether Argentinian wheat served as the "ace-in-the-hole" of the British delegation, enabling it to maintain the traditional British policy of "tough trading" to the break up of the Washington discussions?

The suspicion here is that that is pretty close to what actually happened. British refusal to come up to the \$2.05 price to which the other importing countries agreed is believed to have been based upon the knowledge that the United Kingdom can buy Argentinian wheat at the price of \$2.00 per bushel which the British delegation offered.

Argentina, of course, wasn't an actual participant in the Washington negotiations. But the Peron Government had requested and received permission to send a team of observers. Interest in the Argentinian request to attend had been heightened by the fact that Argentina, along with Soviet Russia, had been the sole important exporting countries that had held aloof from the International Wheat Agreement currently expiring. The Peron Government's interest in

the Washington meeting was interpreted as a probable desire to join the new agreement.

But Argentina did NOT join the proposed new agreement. Her observers were on hand throughout the long months of discussion. Through their presence the fact that Argentina this year had an exportable wheat surplus of more than 100,000,000 bushels became well known. But when the final communique of the conference was issued, Argentina was absent from the ranks of the exporting nations which were holding out for the \$2.05 price.

Shrewd observers in the Capital here are satisfied that Argentina's interest in the Washington conference was mainly the marketing contacts she was able to make there. They believe that British stubbornness in refusing to raise their figure of \$2.00 per bushel was grounded upon some firm if unpublished assurance that Argentine wheat would be available at that price.

The importance of this theory, if it is true, is that it dissipates any last-ditch optimism being held here that Britain will come up to the \$2.05 price within the 14 days still left to her to join the agreement. If the United Kingdom is sure of Argentine wheat at \$2.00 per bushel, she is not going to volunteer to pay \$2.05 per bushel for Canadian wheat. Parliament Hill realists appreciate that fact and it is what worries them in the present unsatisfactory situation.

PRINCE RUPERT CITY AND DISTRICT LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

CONVENTION

Civic Centre, Wed., April 15, 8 p.m.

Business of Convention:

1. Selection of delegates to the District Convention.
2. Report of delegates to the Provincial Convention.
3. Nomination of Candidate.

All Liberals and interested citizens are urged to attend this important nominating convention.

Civic Centre, April 15, 8 p.m.

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Graham Towers Urges U.S. Reduce Tariff Barriers

PULLMAN, Wash. (P)—Graham Towers appealed to the United States to help win the "cold war" by reducing American tariff barriers.

America's partners in the free world are waiting "anxiously" for an encouraging move by the U.S. the governor of the Bank of Canada said in a speech before the Pacific Northwest Conference on Banking.

"If the signs they get are discouraging, then I fear that we face a further weakening of the basic economic structure of the free world."

He doubted whether one American in a thousand understood the many ways and means by which goods from other countries—particularly manufactured goods—may be kept out of the U.S.

But as the U.S. public advisory board on mutual security had stated in the Bell report, "many goods take longer to pass through the customs than it took Columbus to discover America."

The Bell report was struck at the core of the can problem. The report intended that decisions on policy be based on national interest rather than on the interest of particular industrial groups.

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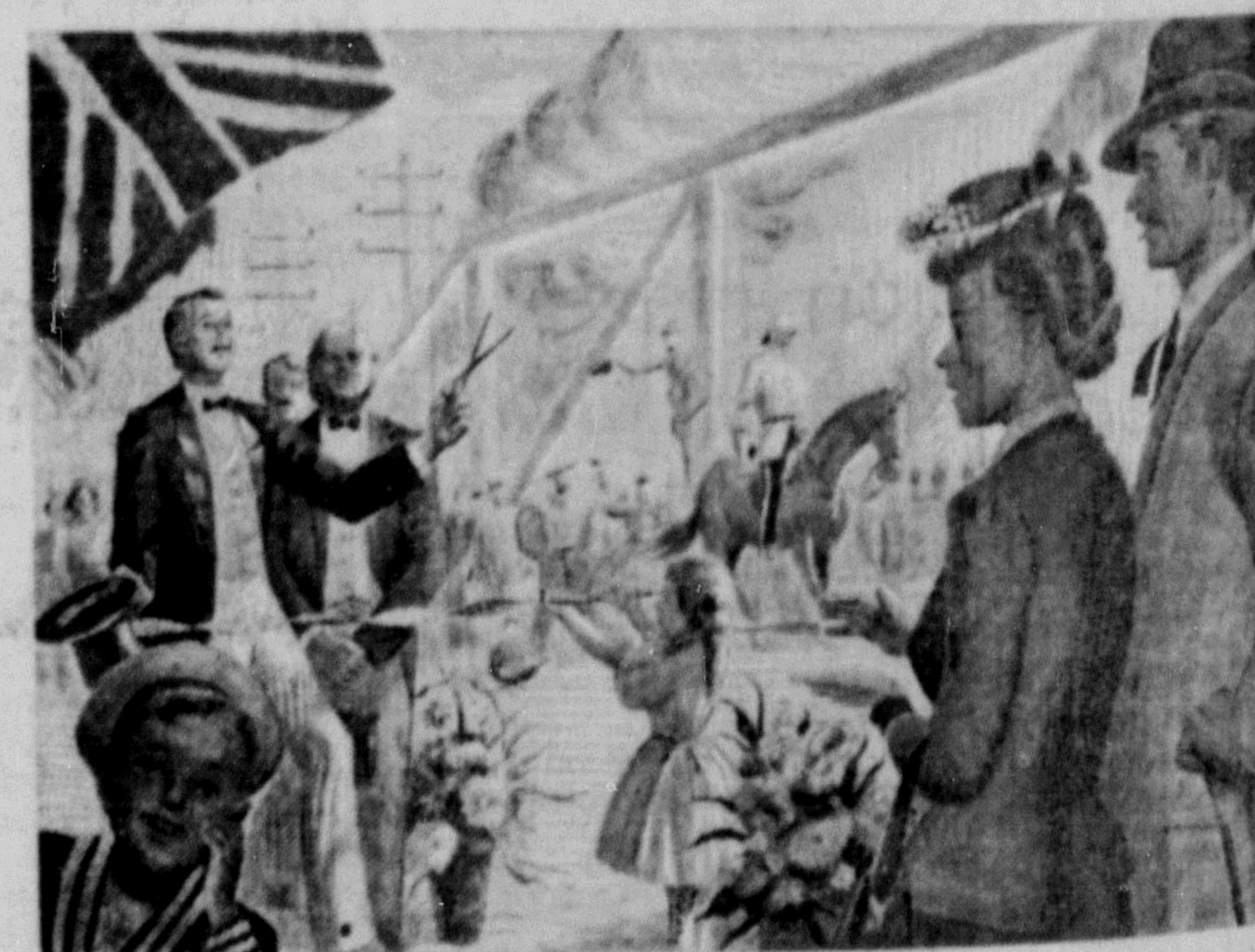
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