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Smart Investment

ALTHOUGH it involves a considerable element of chance, the city council's decision to spend \$500 on having a qualified engineer make an airport survey here is a sound one.

Apart from what it accomplishes technically, such a survey will be of value in showing Ottawa that ours is not an attitude of sitting back and complaining as we wait. If we settled for the routine procedure of protesting and demanding, it might take years—if ever—to get the federal government seriously interested in our case. There is no guarantee that an engineer's report will make any headway either, but at least there is the possibility it will raise questions that the government must answer. It might also establish the fact that our purpose is not to quarrel with the government but to discuss rationally a project which could have benefits of a wide scope.

The attention of the city's airport committee—whose inquiries, incidentally, have made it possible to engage a reputable engineer at a comparatively low price—has been centred mainly on Digby Island's Delusion Bay as a site for the proposed airport. Apparently this was not considered in the government's recent survey and therefore does not figure in the contention that an airport out here would cost about \$5,000,000.

Those with some knowledge of the subject who have studied Delusion Bay say that its direction is right and its area sufficient. If it can be demonstrated next that the landfill operation involved could be done much more cheaply than building on muskeg, as contemplated in the government report, then Prince Rupert's case should be well on the way.

In the final analysis, the expenditure of \$500 is not so much a gamble as an investment which, if it pays off, will surely be the best for its size that the city has ever made.

Support The Sea Cadets

BOYS in the public eye during the week were those smart young lads in blue, the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. Several days ago they went through their paces in the annual inspection of HMCS Chatham personnel, and since then residents of Prince Rupert have received a letter from the sponsoring Navy League of Canada calling for support of this youthful movement.

"If the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet movement needed a recruiting slogan," the letter remarks, "it might well be 'Join the Sea Cadets—and See,' for truly in the past several years our Canadian Sea Cadets have travelled extensively and seen much of the world."

This opportunity for young Canadians to journey to far points of the world and simultaneously receive a training which will be to their lasting advantage is one which deserves all possible encouragement and support. It may also be kept in mind that, while all of us pray war will never again fasten on the world, the presence of these boys is added assurance that if this ever occurs, Canada's navy will be able to carry on the brave and valuable part which it has had in the past.

Let us help the boys who may one day be called upon to help us.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

It was fifty years ago when Winston Churchill, as a newspaperman, spent a while in the Jinga area of the Nile in Uganda. He chanced to write, at that time: "It would be easy to let the Nile begin its long and beneficent journey by leaping through a turbine. Jinga is destined to become a very important place in the economy of central Africa." A few weeks ago, Queen Elizabeth, in Jinga, pressed a button and exactly fulfilled Churchill's prediction.

IMPOSSIBLE TO ADMIRE The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Atlantic seaway is controversial to say the least, and has not yet reached an enduring fact. But there is no question about how the situation is shaping in that direction. This has been envisioned for a century and recommended by every president since Harding. But a city such as New York dislikes as much as ever the idea of its vast seaport trade flowing in other directions.

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As I See It



by Elmore Philbott

Indo-China Facts

THE FALL of the French-held fortress position of Dien Bien Phu brings the whole world dangerously closer to world war three.

The worst of all the dangers seems to me that the Americans will "internationalize" the war. If that happens it seems to me that China will surely follow suit.

The world may well be sucked first into a gigantic, sinkhole war—a Dien Bien Phu on a larger scale—and later into total shooting war, fought with hydrogen bombs and all the other devilish paraphernalia of modern destruction.

HERE AGAIN are the pertinent facts about the war in Indo-China:

The French imperial authority is challenged by a native independence movement, which is led by native Communists. These native nationalists were in fact armed by the Americans, as an underground movement of resistance against the Japanese forces.

When the Japanese surrendered, Indo-China was liberated under a plan previously arranged. The forces of Chiang Kai-shek quickly occupied the northern part of the country. They accepted, as the government, the native administration set up by the resistance forces, under the long time leader Ho Chi Min.

In the southern part of the country the British commander used the surrendered Japanese troops to overpower the native resistance leaders to the point necessary to restore French authority.

But after the original tensions, the native administrations were recognized by all concerned. Negotiations about an outright transfer of power were carried on for many months.

One of the grimmest jokes of modern history was this: The Communist party of France did its best to prevent the grant of full independence to the native government of Indo-China. In those days the Communist party of France was the strongest single party in the coalition. It expected to be in a position soon to take over not only all France, but all the French colonial possessions, including Indo-China.

HISTORIANS ARE agreed that the actual shooting war in Indo-China was started by the French general—and not by the native independence forces.

There is no doubt, however, that as the war has gone on the native independence movement has been organized, more and more, as just another segment in the world Communist movement.

It is obvious that the native Communist-led forces are getting supplies, including artillery, from Red China. But at most, this material support is only a fraction of the enormous amount of assistance which the French imperial authorities have been getting from the U.S.

The U.S.A. would have no more LEGAL right to send in armies to Indo-China, than would Red China.

But a victory for the local Red forces would extend the Communist world empire just as truly as if all Indo-China were captured by Russian or Chinese soldiers.



PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS covering the Geneva conference drape themselves artistically on a ladder and along fluted wall as they wait to cover the coming and going of diplomats of the world at the Geneva airport. Note the wide variety of camera equipment in evidence.

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

There isn't too much happiness in Parliament these days over foreign policy developments. The situation is far too bristling with frustrations for any MP, regardless of whether he sits on the government or opposition side of the Chamber, to be complacent.

There's a growing feeling that the delegation which was despatched with so great elation to Geneva just a few short weeks ago—Canada's first wholly independent delegation to any Great Powers conference—already represents a lost cause. It has become apparent that Korea, the issue on which the Canadian delegation was briefed to play a leading role, is of little more than incidental interest to the gathering—that the fundamental stakes at issue are whether or not Communist China shall win full recognition as a great power.

Since Canada is not anxious to get squeezed in the conflict of opinion amongst the Great Powers over Communist China, this turn in the strategy of the Geneva meeting is leaving the Canadian delegation conspicuously on the sidelines. The frustration of our diplomats is being rendered all the more obvious by the fact that, marooned along with them, are a small army of Canadian news correspondents who accompanied them to cover their activities. So far about all the newspapermen have got out of the journey is the ride. Certainly none of them have been kept busy sharpening their pencils.

Ostensibly the issue of recognition of Communist China isn't on the Geneva agenda. But reports to Ottawa from the Canadian delegation have drawn the inference that the Communist groups are going to see to it that the conference makes no worthwhile progress until recognition of the Peking regime is conceded.

Another by-product of the Geneva Conference, as well as of the French defeat in Indo-China, is the growing interest in a new regional security alliance in Southeast Asia. But on this topic, too, Canada's action so far is negative. The government hasn't stated publicly the reasons for its policy. It is believed, however, it considers new commitments in Southeast Asia would be too much for a nation

of 14,000,000 people to support. Our UNO and NATO responsibilities already are requiring us to keep armies in Asia and Western Europe in a time of nominal peace. The Cabinet is credited with taking the view that this is the maximum burden that the Canadian economy can afford.

Parliamentary opinion, although it isn't too satisfied with things as they are, is inclined to go along with the government's stand. In its perplexity it does not see any immediately available alternative.

Chief To Ask Dismissal Of Magistrate

VANCOUVER — Chief Andy Paul, spokesman for the North American Brotherhood of Indians, said Thursday he would demand the dismissal of L. G. Saul, stipendiary magistrate at northern Burns Lake, B.C., for keeping Indians out of the town's lone beer parlor "for their own good."

The magistrate told a convention here the natives were barred "because what's the difference between interdicting them one at a time or all at once."

Chief Paul termed the move "overbearing racial prejudice." "The man's mentality is not that of other Canadians. I'm going to write the attorney-general asking that his authority be taken away."

"We have a different brand of Indians up there," Magistrate Saul said.

"When they were given drinking privileges, it was like taking a person out of darkness and putting him into the light."

Stipendiary magistrates during the cold weather and do not appear until the warm days of early spring.

All Aboard By G.E. Mortimore

Quite early in the morning there was a knock, and I opened the door to find two five-year-old boys carrying home-made flags on long poles.

"We're from the Canadian-U.S. Mounted," they announced. "Fast work, boys," I said. "I only filed my tax return yesterday."

They glowered at me, with their flagpoles tilted at a menacing angle. The flags were made from chunks of discarded curtain.

"It's a fair pinch," I said. "I knew right along that those medical expenses were non-deductible. They only came to three per cent. But some evil impulse made me put them down."

"I got a knife," one of the arresting officers announced. "Yes, I realize you boys of the Canadian-U.S. Mounted have to be heavily armed for this work," I said.

They advanced a step toward me, placing my eyes in danger of being gouged by their flagpoles.

"It all started back in my childhood, officer," I said. "My mother never taught me the difference between net and taxable income. I blame her for this."

They clattered into the house. One of them swung a short chunk of lead pipe, as though to indicate that there had been enough talk, and the time for action had arrived.

"One question, before you take me away," I pleaded. "I know the Canadian-U.S. Mounted is a fine force. But where are your horses?"

"We got a covered wagon with two hundred thousand horses pulling it," one of them said. "And we're going to put you inside."

"Oh no, you're not, copper," I snarled, dodging behind a chair and loosing a shot from an imaginary pistol. "I changed my mind."

They ran out the door, firing from the hip as they left. "We'll be back with Barry and Wesley, and surround the house," they

threatened. "And we'll collect your income tax."

"I'll be in Mexico by then," I said. "Don't bother sending me a T-1 (short) down there, either, because I won't fill it in."

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