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Tough Campaign Lies Ahead

WHILE it was well known that many Liberals were banking on Chief Justice Gordon Sloan to lead the party into the next B.C. election and restore its lost glory, there should be no feeling that they have settled for a doubtful second best in Arthur Laing.

If Hansard provides an accurate clue to a member's performance in parliament at Ottawa, Mr. Laing has given an excellent account of himself there. A day by day study of this publication indicates that the member for Vancouver South was not given to sitting on his thumbs. On the contrary, he took an active part in proceedings and expressed himself well. If he is elected, it is likely that a considerable amount of vigor will be injected into the session at Victoria.

The "if elected" part of it is, of course, a poser that applies with more than usual emphasis to the party as a whole. The crashing disaster which overtook it last June presents a large riddle in a political picture which, to indulge in a euphuism, is riddled with riddles. Was it the end of the party as a major one in B.C.?

The answer probably lies not so much with the public as with the Liberals themselves. If nothing was learned from the defeat, if the party remains convinced that its old prestige will ultimately pull it through, then in all likelihood it was the end. The Social Creditors demonstrated impressively how much prestige counts at the polls. They managed quite well without a trace of it. The once-proud Whigs of Britain could add a few words of bitter advice on the same score.

On the other hand, the Liberals' adversity could be turned into an asset. In the U.S. they sometimes speak of a candidate for office as "running scared." It is found to be a desirable frame of mind. In this condition a candidate has more punch. He abandons lofty sentiment and gets down to cases, particularly his opponent's. Truman did it to Dewey. Eisenhower finally did it to Stevenson.

In Canada "Chubby" Power is an outstanding hand at it. Mackenzie King knew when to pull the gloves off, and Harold Winch has rarely had them on. W. A. C. Bennett is no slouch, either. The record of all these men at the polls is one that merits serious thought.

This is not to suggest that the Liberals jump into the melee like cats in a back-alley scuffle, but a good angry campaign is certainly indicated. There is no time now for slick strategy. The grits have been kicked out of their seats and, if they are serious about the thing, they must make up their minds that they are ding-blasted well going to get them back.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Lo, the winter is past."—Song of Solomon 2:11.

Malenkov Taking Big Gamble Which Can Make or Break Regime

By DON DALLAS

LONDON (Reuters)—Soviet Prime Minister Georgi Malenkov has released forces in Russia which can either make or break his regime.

Malenkov's domestic policy, as revealed during his first month of office, has shown that he believes the time is ripe to give the Russian people at least a taste of democracy as it is understood in the West. He is taking a big gamble.

The acid question is how far he can go in a "democratization" process without unleashing demands for a genuine 100-percent Western-style democracy to replace the present system of one-party dictatorship.

To set the right balance between the stability of his regime and a limited letup in Russia's own internal Iron Curtain, Malenkov will need to be a shrewd judge of Russian psychology and of the internal situation.

The immediate effect of several of his moves on the home front will undoubtedly be to popularize his administration. Two major moves to date have been the declaring of a general amnesty, freeing tens of thousands of prisoners serving up to five-year terms, and the freeing of the group of doctors accused of having committed "medical murder."

The general amnesty, which freed an unspecified number of political prisoners, as well as common criminals, is undoubtedly a liberal step. But it is nowhere near as far-reaching in its implications as "the case of the doctors."

Of the many aspects of this unprecedented move, the most important are:

- The admission that the state was wrong in jailing the doctors.

- The admission that the interrogation methods adopted were "impermissible" and not in accordance with Soviet law.

To the Russian people the implication that the third-degree methods of interrogating suspects and in getting forced confessions now are ruled out of order will be staggering news.

The Russian announcement may imply that the power of the dreaded secret police now will be lessened.

It may mean that Malenkov wants to introduce "a liberal reform" into police and prison methods, perhaps advised on this score by his No. 2 man Lavrenti Beria.

Soviet citizens may well argue that if the state can be wrong about one thing it can be wrong about another. About international policy, for instance, as well as about domestic affairs.

The start of "a liberal reform" in Russia could give rise to a demand that the press should be freed of state control and given at least some freedom to criticize independently the state administration.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Surpluses Won't Wait

THE surpluses swiftly piling up in North America literally shriek to high heaven that past policies are inadequate to deal with what lies ahead.

Dr. Lyle Telford points out in his bright and provocative weekly paper "The Challenge" that again we have "wheat to burn." The total world wheat crop last year was 7,235 million bushels. Of this total Canada grew 688 millions. We have orders under the expiring International Wheat Agreement for 235 million bushels. Of this amount 87 millions remain to be shipped.

It all boils down to this: On January 15, 1953, there were 396.8 million bushels of wheat on the prairie provinces for which there is no market in sight.

ON MARCH 5, Hon. James Gardiner told parliament our government still owned 76 million pounds of the 98 million pounds of pork bought and canned last year. This move was to help farmers who would otherwise have been hard hit when the hoof and mouth embargo was on.

We taxpayers also still own nearly 30 million pounds of surplus butter (not counting another 15 million held by private business). The supply of surplus government-owned dried milk doubled in the past year.

Parliament recently extended for two more years the law which permits the government to buy dairy products, to hold the price to farmers above a certain floor price.

The CCF convention in Ontario takes no issue with this fundamental policy, applied chiefly through the federal Liberal Mr. Gardiner. The chief criticism of the Tories in the House of Commons expressed by John Diefenbaker, is that the Liberals do not yet go far enough in their price support program. It is worth noting that a powerful farmers' deputation, headed by the dynamic Joe Phelps, recently waited on the federal government and demanded a two price system, enforced by law.

Farm product prices in Canada would be kept in line with prices of things the farmer has to buy—in other words farm prices would be kept in line with city wages.

But farm surpluses would be sold abroad for whatever they would bring.

Due to the energetic action of Hon. Jimmy Sinclair, the first Minister of Fisheries who ever faced the fact his job was to sell fish, we have now disposed of one third of our salmon carry over.

That means we will have 400,000 cases of unsold B.C. salmon on June 1. But the accumulating food surpluses in Canada warn us—regardless of political party—that much more drastic action will soon be required. The consumer, meantime, has become the forgotten person.

Nobody has yet faced up to this fundamental fact in Canada: People right here in Canada would be glad to help eat up the salmon surplus, the butter surplus, and all other surpluses if prices were down where people could afford to buy.

I think you can justify use of taxpayers' money only to bonus abundance—but never to create or maintain an artificial scarcity. Surely, it would be better to give every butter buyer in Canada two or three pounds of butter for the price of one pound than to keep that butter in storage, indefinitely.

THE ONLY visible longer range solution is a deal with Britain. The British people desperately need what we now have in such commercially menacing surpluses. Are we too dumb, too unimaginative, to get together.

Prince Married At Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG (CP)—A fairytale royal wedding united the reigning houses of two-thirds of the Benelux countries today before the nobility of 11 European countries. Some 14,000 persons stood outside the church.

In twin civil and religious rites, the Grand Duchess's heir-apparent Prince Jean and Belgium's Princess Josephine Charlotte, sister of King Abudouin were married.

Prince Jean, 32, fought with Britain's Irish Guards in the Second World War.



UNDER UNITED NATIONS LEADERSHIP, farming methods are being improved in Ethiopia. Since agreements were concluded in 1951, the UN's food and agriculture organization has provided Ethiopia with an over-all agricultural adviser and six other experts. Here a group of Galla farmers cut wheat with primitive sickles.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

George Hees, M.P. for Toronto-Broadview, has won wide recognition during his three years in the House of Commons as easily the most effective of the younger recruits to the Progressive-Conservative team.

He's an impressive combination of winning personality and seriousness of purpose. But there's a good deal more to his success than just attractiveness of personality.

One of his assets is industry. George's enthusiasm for the political principles in which he believes in the solid sort that translates itself into about an 18-hour day and frequently a seven-day week. In politics that brand of diligence still pays off. Politics is one of the few remaining fields which still illustrates the truth of the old copy-book max-

im about there being no royal road to success.

Another secret of the noteworthy progress Hees has made in three short years is the field of interest which he has chosen for his own. He is the PC parliamentary specialist in housing policy. And he has thrown himself into the subject with characteristic thoroughness. Few topics have a wider interest for Canadian post-war audiences. And when they hear Hees discuss it, their hopes are awakened to a realization of new possibilities as yet untried in the field of existing government policy.

In political circles the PC's are recognized widely as having been uncommonly lucky to add Hees to their team. But just how lucky they are is known only to a few of the young parliamentarian's more intimate friends. Here's the story:

George Hees served overseas in the late war and was wounded in the arm. By army medical standards his injury wasn't too serious. But he was seriously reprimanded at the medical base at which he was treated for having had his revolver which he had worn in his belt, at a cocked position.

Hees defended himself against the rebuke. He was certain that he had not cocked the weapon before putting it in his belt. As evidence against him, the officers produced the weapon as it had been taken from him when he was brought in from the field.

The revolver was cocked alright. But an instant's examination of it proved that Hees had been right in his denial. A bullet's furrow plowed along the wooden revolver handle and ended at the hammer of the weapon. What had happened was apparent. The bullet hadn't been headed for the Hees arm at all. It had been travelling straight for the Hees stomach and would have torn into it, but for the revolver which had deflected it—and which had become cocked in the bullet's freakish providential course.

That's the reason the PC's aren't just lucky but doubly lucky to have Hees M.P. in there fighting on their parliamentary team today.

Put Out Welcome Mat For Tourists

The tourist season is almost here. The B.C. Automobile Association suggests that the tourist industry is everybody's business.

"More and more visitors are coming to British Columbia, there is no doubt about that," said Harry Duker, president of the B.C. Automobile Association. "Most of our visitors from the south come in automobiles. In 1951, 2,219,601 motorists entered Canada on Traveler's permits for stays of 48 hours or longer.

"More tourists are coming each year, but they are spending less. In 1949 we reached an all-time peak of American tourist expenditures in Canada. In 1951 there was a drop of \$10,000,000. Figures are not available for 1952, but it is believed there is the same downward trend."

"These shorter visits," continued Mr. Duker, "mean the loss of many tourist dollars. We shall all ask ourselves why do our visitors to Canada from the south hurry away. We know we have unsurpassed scenery, so is it our roads, is it the places to stay, or is it our own personal attitude towards these visitors.

"The tourist industry is everybody's business. Everyone can help to make a tourist welcome. The man in the service station, the girl behind the lunch counter, the motel proprietor, and you. If you see a car with a U.S. licence parked at the curb, speak to the driver, be friendly, helpful and courteous. If tourism is to be big business, it must be the business of every Canadian."

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Ray Reflects and Reminisces

Even if Prince Rupert has had theatres since before incorporation, they have been bright looking. These temples of art, beloved by all and sundry, were

never permitted to languish. The job of painting the Capitol is going on right now.

Away back in 1909 the late Frank Stevens sat before a seasoned piano in a barn-like building located in what was known as Rupert Road, handy to the harbor front. The railway had yet to arrive. Here was entertainment. Here could drooping spirits revive. Several score kitchen chairs were occupied. The motion picture had come to a skeptical world and refinements were few. Mr. Stevens, a man of powerful build and lover of music had carried on faithfully. His personality was pleasant, with far away touch of satire.

The day came—but without tedious delay—when statesmen were haranguing and chorus girls warbling on the little stage further up town. This was on the top floor of the Empress theatre, Second Avenue and 6th Street. The late Sir Richard McBride gave the first oration ever heard there. A member of the first Federal cabinet had something to say and said it. It did not seem possible for a musical comedy company to sing and dance on such a tiny stage. Yet Prince Rupert thought "The Honeymoon Trail" a pretty fair show.

THREE ON ONE
Soon Second Avenue had no fewer than three play houses. One the Westholme being taken down not so many years ago. The stage had ample room for plays, and more than one company had engagements. But this doesn't mean the screen was not also there, in full measure. The Westholme flourished, with balcony and boxes, but no deep cushions. That luxury, "reminiscent of metropolitan usage was destined to appear later.

The amusement world of early Prince Rupert has left a mark that lingers on. Many a name would amuse diverting memories could they but be recalled. In some way, hundreds of men and women, professional and amateur became more or less identi-

field with music and drama, or the strangers who drifted in and out called themselves lists. One asked themselves show how the Prince waterfront would look years later and was told ahead. The passing of years has witnessed a not undoubted, but not unperpetrated. The curtain Westholme theatre was only it revealed San Francisco instead of Prince Rupert. Later Pacific port is still away, having not quite as yet, it provided comedy for months.

FROM EARLY DAYS
Colonel S. R. McMorris, a contractor, helped in the grades in Section 1. He was a Great War veteran, years was associated with the management of the Westholme Capitol theatre. From here he moved to Vancouver, the city he passed away.

Commonest of the families of small lizards in the is the blue-tailed skink, tarlo.

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