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Faith Not Required

IT MAY TURN out to be a very important coincidence that the date which the federal government has set for closure of our drydock and shipyards is just about the same as that for Alcan to get fully underway in the first stage of its operations at Kitimat.

While nothing official has been announced, it is expected that Alcan will have its first two potlines in operation by mid-September. The federal government plans to rid itself of the drydock and shipyards approximately two weeks later.

It will make quite a picture. At one point on the coast we will witness deepsea vessels starting to steam in almost daily to a booming new industry, while just a few miles north a once-great shipping plant will be formally entering its final period of decay. Or perhaps we should call it a period of dismemberment as there appears to be at least one firm willing to tear the whole thing apart and haul away the pieces.

If this happens, the unpleasant irony of the situation will be brought into still sharper relief. As the ships loaded with alumina surge northwards they will pass a file of tugs towing relics of our drydock, headed south. In a grim sort of way, it would make the picture of the year, or possibly of the century. A photographer rarely has such a chance to depict vision and the lack of it on so grand a scale, side by side.

If a sale is made to someone with more faith in the north than the demolition squad in New Westminster, the tragic scene need never be enacted. That faith, of course, does not necessarily have to take the form of ship building and repair. There are many other industries which, on that waterfront site, have an assured future.

As things stand, however, the government is not holding out for faith. It will settle for a quick dollar, no questions asked.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Six months hence is not unduly long in which to decide one way or the other, who or what will be the future owner of the Prince Rupert drydock and ship repair plant. To have it sold and moved away, would be an economic blow to city and port. And it would be a delight to the many who have never had any use for this community.

THE WATCHFUL HOUR

Penny Wise, home from her glamorous sojourn in South America is enough of a newspaper dame to fancy this mid-day siesta, but questions its adoption in British Columbia. Naturally enough, she is deeply interested. It must be remembered, however, that if there is ever a time to be on the alert for a front page rush story. Along after lunch hour is no time to be dozing.

"Ottawa, a capital without a zoo," means the Ottawa Citizen. Without going into details, let us point out that Ottawa possesses things that other places lack. We intended to repeat, but actually it's a non-essential.

Perhaps Canada has had a lack of international vision, but her Prime Minister is making a first rate start. Call it a good forerunner.

Reds, not unlike the groundhogs, had to decide this month on the question of going underground when they see themselves shadowed.

Vistors to Detroit, Buffalo and

a few other United States points have already realized how the 10-cent cup of coffee has vanished. Principally 12 cents, by now!

A man dwelling in Arkansas has complained to the police that he has been swindled over a deal to buy a machine that would convert \$1 bills into fives. But he forgot that he hoped to swindle other people with the device.

THEY PREFER ANXIETY

It's indeed a dismal fact there are too many apostles of gloom disturbing the minds of people with their jeremiads these days. Talking about economic conditions and depressions.

A mother of 10 children who is expecting another filed suit in a Springfield (Mo.) court for divorce. The woman alleged her husband was "cold and indifferent."

France Raises Minimum Wage

PARIS (P)—The French government Thursday gave agricultural workers a 15 per cent increase in minimum wages. It was the second 15 per cent wage boost given to non-government workers this month.

Like the first, given to industrial workers, the rise was aimed at compensating non-governmental workers for the 15% raise granted last August to government employees.

As I See It



by

Elmore Philboott

War Race On

WHILE our Prime Minister was telling the people of India that "we want to do our small part to bring about more sanity in international relations" two army generals were making speeches, thousands of miles away from him and from each other.

These three speeches, read together, show the crisscross nature of the present world situation. On one level, there is the latest, and most deadly competitive armament race in the entire history of mankind. But there is also a race on an altogether different level — between those who can't see any other prospects for humanity than more and greater wars, and those who are determined to lay the foundations of world law, based on goodwill and co-operation.

OF THE TWO generals one was American and one was Russian.

The American, General Ridgway, was telling a New Mexico audience that "a handful of evil men" in Moscow posed a threat to the United States which could mean, all-out war. The general described some features of this war. When and if forced to strike, he said, the U.S. would hit back at an attacker with atom bombs and worse.

The eastern Canadian newspapers, perhaps with their editorial tongues in their cheeks, reported another general's speech on the same page. They were so much alike it was a joke. This one was by Marshall Bulganin who told a Moscow audience that "Our armed forces at this moment possess everything to cool hotheads who may lose their senses and dare put their hands on our freedom and independence. . . . Comrades! the armed forces are the most reliable guarantee of peace for the Soviet people. OUR FUTURE ENEMY KNOWS THIS WELL."

I HAVE made a long and careful study of the way that international power politics works. I am convinced that one thing the generals, in all countries, must always have is that next war." No army can survive without a potential enemy. Before the war of 1914 both sides talked and even bet, privately, about its coming. Before the war of 1939 we saw the same condition—only in more open form. The Germans and the French for instance, were as sure of the inevitability of the Kaiser and Hitler wars as the American and Japanese admirals were as sure of the clash between their own navies.

We got the two world wars, on schedule, because the forces making for such wars made them absolutely inevitable, in the absence of any effective offsetting factors.

PRIME Minister Nehru is one great world leader who still hopes that something may be third world war would bring, saved from the wreckage that a His numerous critics in this part of the world should ask themselves: Would we be nearer to that world war three, or further from it, if Nehru were to abandon his hopes for peace, and unconditionally sign up to fight for Uncle Sam, if and when?



REV. H. S. MCSHERRY, Anglican missionary posted in Japan, is in Prince Rupert for a series of meetings with local groups at which he will discuss the situation in Japan and show pictures of the missionary work in that country. He speaks tomorrow night at St. Peter's, Seal Cove, followed by an AYPFA fireside hour, and Monday to a combined meeting of Anglican WA's, before continuing his trip to Terrace and points east.

THE LETTERBOX

ON COMMUNISM

The Editor, The Daily News.

Many people who are sympathetic with communism or socialism from a Christian point of view should remember that the "communal" way of life as practised by the early Christians for a short time was entirely voluntary with everyone donating their entire worldly fund to be shared equally by all, rich and poor and no records kept.

To such people, may I suggest that communism or socialism is the direct antithesis of this early communal way of life.

Communism compels the citizen to give up all to the state. A person has to have the servile soul of a slave to be able to enjoy such mastership. Not for me, thank you.

When I give up my life or my goods, I want to do it voluntarily or to the degree of compulsion that I and other democratic citizens agree upon as being necessary for the common good.

Incidentally, giving up of life is something we do every day. We give up our life to pleasure, work, God, the state or the devil according as we choose.

EDWARD W. GREEN, Prince George, B.C.

B.C. Budget Faces Delay

VICTORIA (CP)—The budget may not be brought down in the British Columbia legislature before March 9.

Premier Bennett said earlier that he hoped to present it March 5, giving CCF Opposition Leader Arnold Webster the weekend to study it before beginning debate on it.

However, government whip Bert Price said Friday the throne speech debate will continue until Monday, March 8 unless more members drop out of the debate. Six members already have said they will not participate.



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OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

No feature of present-day House of Commons debate is deplored more frequently than its normally pedestrian dullness. At times—and for long bleak intervals—it seems as if brilliance of repartee was a lost art in the Chamber.

But every now and then there are flash-backs to the wit of the old days. For instance, Hon. Earl Rowe, Deputy P.C. House Leader, recently applauded a CCF speaker in the debate on unemployment for a particularly effective anti-government statement. A Liberal MP admonished him peremptorily and rudely.

"You had better shut up," the Liberal MP warned Rowe. "You don't know what he (the CCF speaker) may say next."

Replied Rowe happily: "That's alright. I believe in paying as I go."

While in many ways including the field of wit, it may be that Parliaments of the past surpassed their predecessor of the present, there are other respects in which the practices of today earn the title of "the good new days."

For example, there is the softening of party lines between the MP's in their social relations. In the old days a Liberal only entertained fellow Liberals; a Conservative only entertained fellow Conservatives. Both party members entertained Press Gallery correspondents impartially and hopefully. Neither party entertained the CCF.

It was a far cry from this state of affairs to the spectacle on a recent night of Liberal House of Commons Speaker, Hon. Rene Beaudoin, entertaining in honor of P.C. Leader George Drew. The First Commoner had as his dinner guests as many of the veteran members of the P.C. group as his limited dining room accommodation would admit.

Entertainment for this part of the function was on a most elaborate scale, with a gourmet menu and choicest vintage wines. Then after dinner the other members of the P.C. group were invited for a musicale and get-together which lasted until late in the evening. It was a gracious and enjoyable party.

When distinguished persons visit Parliament, Speaker Beaudoin carries the new principle of non-partisan entertainment even farther. Following a precedent laid down by his predecessor, Hon. Ross McDonald, he then summons representatives of all parties, including the CCF and Social Credit, to meet the celebrity at a reception in his chambers. These functions have taken much of the traditional bitterness out of the great game of politics. Some of the old-timers profess a preference for the old rugged days. But the bulk of opinion is on the side of the new atmosphere of comparative graciousness. It doesn't mean that the game of politics is played less hard. It only means that the behaviour of the players is a little more civilized.

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WOMAN APPEALS FOR TO KEEP SELF FROM JAIL

VICTORIA (P)—An appeal for \$500 bail money to keep Mrs. Alice May Dobeson from imprisonment at Oakalla while awaiting trial Friday by Mrs. Alice May Dobeson to the women of the a window in the parliament buildings here a week previously refused bail. But she changed her mind and learned she was to be flown by special RCMP plane to Prison Farm today.

Self-styled defender of the rights of women "swindled by lawyers and real estate agents," Mrs. Dobeson drew public attention to her trial by threatening other acts when she gained her release.

"You can't keep me locked up forever for one window," she told a packed city court Wednesday.



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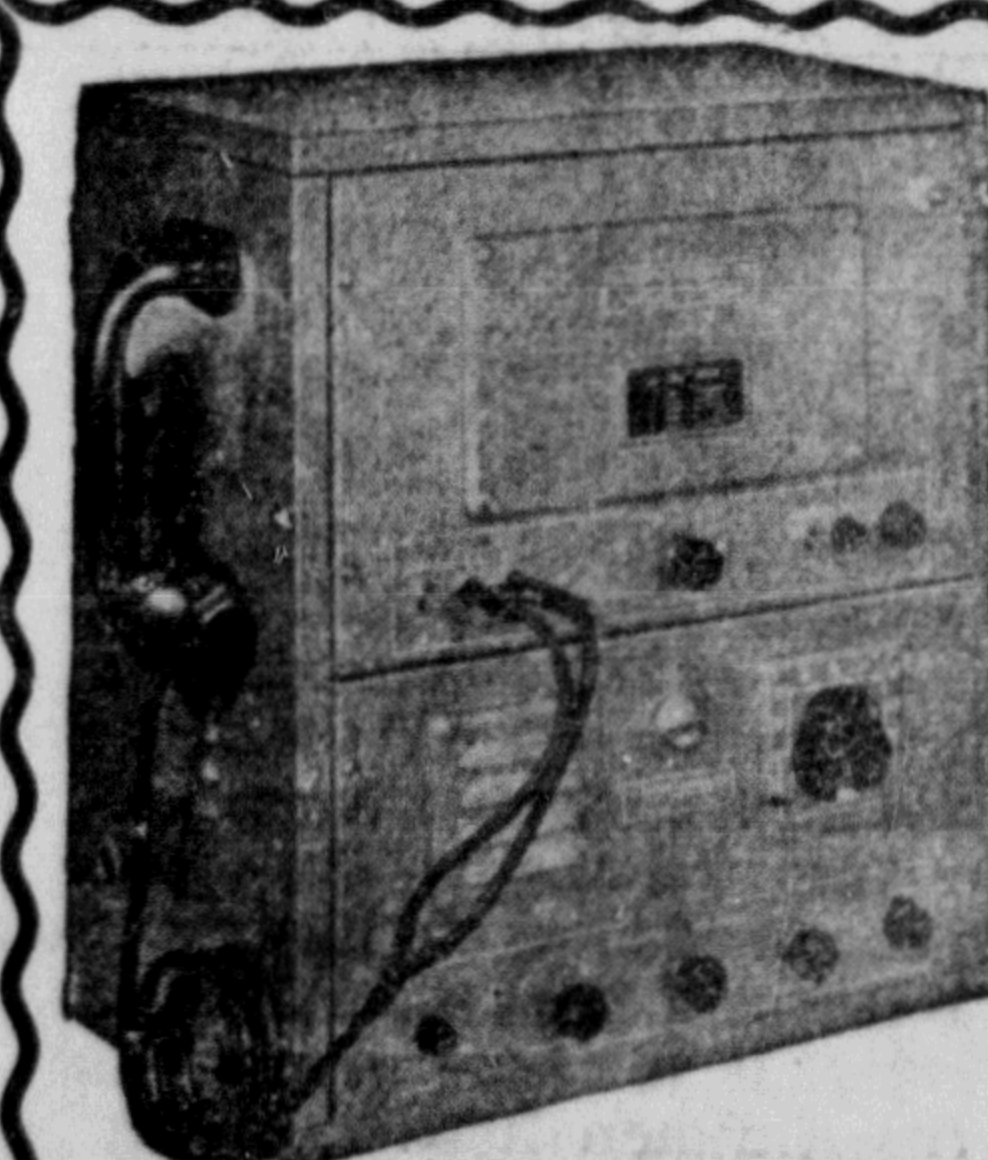
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