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## Let's Be Prepared

FROM the time the fire was discovered it took barely more than an hour for flames to destroy the King George Hotel. In much less than that time—perhaps in as little as 15 minutes—those caught inside had lost all chance of escape.

The speed with which the fire brought death and ruin is one of the most shocking features of the tragedy that struck early Sunday morning. With the shock comes the disturbing realization that, in certain types of accommodation, the life of every guest depends not only on his or her own discretion but on that of all others in the building.

It is understood that the King George Hotel was equipped with all the safety precautions possible in a rooming establishment of old design and that these had been inspected just a short time previously. Thus the record is clear in that respect, and we are left face to face with the obvious but important fact that in some circumstances the only way to defeat fire is never to let it occur.

Unless we accept this, we would be forced into the absurd position of suggesting that all but the most modern structures be condemned.

In Prince Rupert particularly, such a course is entirely out of the question. For better or worse, a high percentage of the city's public dwellings is made up of structures built 40 or more years ago. Until we have something more up-to-date to offer, they must remain. Many of them are clean and well-run and, to the best of their capacity, are filling a pressing need at a time when suitable accommodation is scarce.

Responsibility for preventing disasters such as Sunday's thus devolves on each and every individual who happens to be in the building. Throwing away a lighted match or cigarette, smoking in bed, leaving a burning cigarette on the edge of a table, carelessly knocking out a pipe—any of these or similar acts is potential suicide, to say nothing of manslaughter.

Tragic as it was, the King George Hotel fire again brought to light gratifying evidence that the people of Prince Rupert are always ready to extend a generous hand to those in distress. From all sides offers have come to help the survivors whose plight must surely be moderated by this proof that they are among friends.

At the same time, it was painfully apparent that the city is not prepared for such emergencies. Having performed their valiant job of confining the flames, firemen also took over the duties of a relief committee by finding beds at the firehall for some of the stranded guests. Other survivors made out as best they could under improvised arrangements.

In this connection, the Red Cross's appeal for support should be given sympathetic attention. Here is an organization dedicated to help those in need, but it can carry out its mission only if it has personal as well as financial support. Given this, it could take immediate command in a calamity and dispense its mercies with dispatch.

There are surely those in Prince Rupert with a will to be on call to take over the emergent duties required in sudden disaster. Perhaps they could form themselves into a standing committee which would act under the guidance of the Red Cross. Whatever the arrangement, something of the sort is urgently needed here.

We may be assured that one day or night those sirens will sound again in full cry.

## Scripture Passage for Today

"I will trust, and not be afraid."—Isa. 12:2.

## — MILESTONES —

### 40 Years Ago Today

Mayor Pattullo, after a visit to the Shawatana Passage announced work on the pipe line is now completed.

### 30 Years Ago Today

Members of the Prince Rupert Club gathered in the club rooms for a farewell party and presentation to Colonel J. H. McMullen who is leaving to reside in Victoria.

### 20 Years Ago Today

Two fish boats refused an offer of 4c and 3c for their catch of halibut and decided to leave for Seattle.

### 10 Years Ago Today

Alderman Hills expressed the opinion at the council meeting that something should be done about the sale of extract and liquor substitutes in the city.

### The RCAF has made application for a considerable portion of the Land in Section nine.

### Tough Competitor

REGINA (CP) — Defenceman Tony Schneider, the Western Junior Hockey League's most penalized player, has been voted by Regina fans as the most valuable player on the Regina Pats team.

## ray ...

### Reflects and Reminisces

Oliver Hereford the humorist once even had enough nerve to acknowledge a letter from a bank beginning: "It appears that your account is overdrawn." He answered briefly: "Never trust appearances."

Aged Queen Mary, 88, won't speak into a telephone, even if it would be convenient for family members newly arrived from New York and feeling anxious. She never has and does not intend to. Her illness is serious, and there is no telling what a telephone might do.

### HOME NEWS

Canadian sailors on naval duties in the Orient are again requesting news from home. Sport stuff in particular will be welcomed. More than seamen want this. A batch of local data about people and places you happen to be familiar with can be sent any old time—and the more often the better.

This spring will see six Admirals serving in the Royal Canadian Navy according to an announcement in March. Canada expects that each one will do his duty.

### EYE FOR ANKLE

Mrs. Louise Andrews of Vancouver lived in Tiflis (Georgian town conquered by Russia). She says she secretly hated all Russians. She recalls having seen him often, with other young students, and they came to know one another. More than once, she declares, the future dictator complimented on her pretty feet.

Ireland's government plans spending \$700,000 for the race horse Tulyar owned by Aga Khan the Moslem leader. That's a handsome piece of money, and protests have been strong. Yet, it looks like a deal. The Irish sweep is due pretty soon now. Handy sort of horse to have around just now.

Friday of this week will be the commencement of spring, and though the day is chill with occasional sprinkles, flurries, touches of gales and perhaps frost as a side line, the day will nevertheless be spring. You see it's official. So there is no argument.

Now that winter is ending we all want but little here below—not even one or two below—Saskatoon Star.

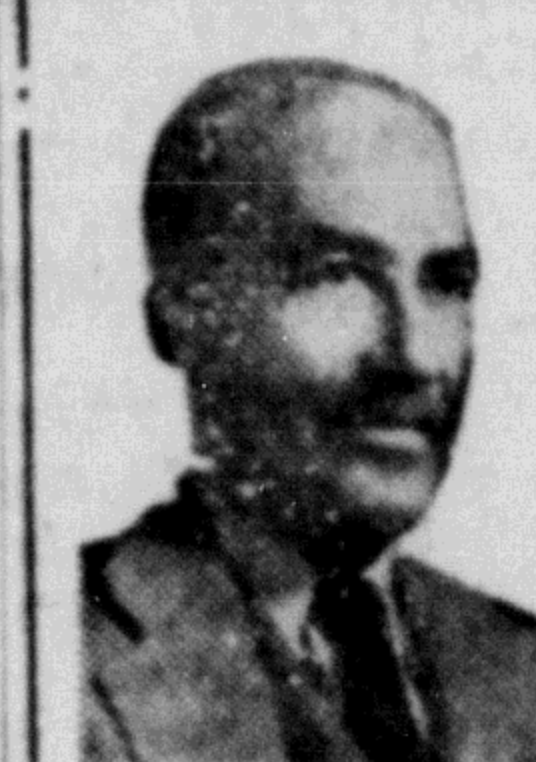
China's millions of fishermen won't like this, but they have got to. Communists will run the show. The age old way of life goes into effect that suits Communism and none else. The Chinese must live ashore. They hate. Chinese have always lived abroad, from birth to death. They must have permission to go to sea. They must sell through the government. If a fisherman does not have the minimum catch required he will suffer a fine. They have no money or valuables on board.

The United States, it is announced now has four guided missile ships ready to join the Seventh Fleet in the Far East. That is, Formosa. For Better, or For Worse.

The Governor-General will pay a formal visit to St. Thomas district in southern Ontario. South African veterans will be included in the guard of honor. It so happens that among the 35 who had gone from Canada, five are left.



LT.-GEN. GUY SIMMONDS, Canadian army chief of staff, takes part in a tactical exercise with the 27th Infantry Brigade at Hohne, Germany. He is in the turret of a centurion tank with officers of "C" squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons. Left to right: Gen. Simonds; Maj. J. A. Milbrath, Calgary, squadron commander; Sgt. Ed Cheney, Toronto, tank wireless operator.



## As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

### • War Threat Worse

ONE SWALLOW does not make a summer. One border shooting incident does not make a war.

Just six years ago a few hot-headed American Congressmen wanted to go to war with Yugoslavia because of a shooting affair in Trieste. This week the U.S.A. has delivered the first batch of jet aircraft to her new ally, the same Yugoslavia. Tito is about to lunch with Queen Elizabeth on a visit to cement the alliance with Britain.

But, despite those qualifications, the shooting down of two allied planes on two successive days drives home the point I have been trying to make here: Stalin was a restraining and moderating influence on Russian imperialism and aggressive tendencies. With Stalin gone, the younger, more hard-boiled, brash boys in the Kremlin will have their say, unchecked.

FOR MONTHS before the death of Stalin I felt in my very bones that some big shift for the worse was coming in the Russian world line.

I felt this year exactly as I did just after Munich when I wrote in this column in December 1938:

"My guess is that the plight of the Jews will become worse because of another international shift. The interests of Germany and Russia are complementary and do not conflict. Russia has an unbounded supply of raw materials of all kinds but lacks technical equipment and organizing ability. What has divided them is the superficial quarrel between fascism and communism. I say superficial because anybody who studies Hitler's own book must believe it is so. Hitler has no apparent quarrel whatever with the economics of communism. His insane hatred is for the Jews. He regards Marxism as a doctrine designed to enable the Jews to lead both the proletarian forces throughout the world as they already lead in the realms of international finance.

"Stalin has shown himself an utterly ruthless Russian Czar interested first in the welfare of Russia and then in the progress of socialism. There is no evidence to show he is either

for the Jews as such or against them as such. But his chief enemy was Trotsky the Jew. And the only other remaining Jew in high places is Litvinoff.

"My belief is that if necessary Stalin will do exactly what Lenin did—make peace with Germany on the best terms possible."

That of course is exactly what Stalin did do nine months after the above was written—in the sinister deal which was the green light for Hitler to attack us.

I WOULD NOT now write so glib an analysis of fascism and communism as above—for while their means are much the same, their ends are poles apart.

But I do say that for months past we have had plain signs from Russia that some big new scheme was in the making. When the Kremlin turned on the Jews it could only mean:

1. Either Stalin had abandoned his lifelong profession of race equality rights which made him list in 1942 his first war aim as "abolition of racial exclusiveness" or

2. Some new anti-Jewish leader was already taking over the reins of power from Stalin's failing hands.

The anti-Jewish line seems to me quite as significant as the shooting down of the American and British planes over Germany. Both shout a warning—watch out—big trouble coming over Germany.

### MORE BACHELORS

GUELPH, Ont. (CP)—There are 116 more unmarried men in Guelph this year than last. City Assessor Robert Bryden reported 1,002 unmarried males were liable to the \$5 civic poll tax, compared with 886 last year.



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## — THE LETTER BOX —

### VOTE OF THANKS

The Editor,  
The Daily News:  
A hearty vote of thanks should go out to our fire department and also the citizens who volunteered to help them at the disastrous fire at the King George Hotel.

We of the St. Elmo and the Inlander realize the danger there was, so we all would like to thank you each and everyone for the good work you did.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Berg  
(St. Elmo)  
Mr. and Mrs. John Kasper  
(Inlander)

### BENEVOLENCE NOT HERE

The Editor,  
The Daily News:  
Without endorsing or affirming the justice of the rejection of the bid for \$500 by the city ratepayers association, I would like to enlarge upon the statement of Mayor Harold Whalen, "The City is not a benevolent institution" spoken at a meeting, March 11, 1953.

Certainly the city is not a benevolent association! That is quite plain. One only needs to look out the window to see the miserable condition of disrepair this city is in. It is quite obvious that benevolence has never been practised in Prince Rupert. The disgraceful neglect of the streets, the sidewalks, the power supply, the street lighting, the water service and without exception everything that goes to make up a healthy, moral community of ratepayers.

But then benevolence has never been practised by those who have milked this fair community of all its wealth. Where are all the millions and millions of dollars that have gone to make up the huge net turnover of business for 40 years.

Donated to a benevolent association think you?

Nay, but I think you will find that "Prince Rupert benevolence" is a byword to many a big multi-million dollar concern.

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