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## German Peace Treaty

POSTULATE of the much to be desired German peace treaty is a united Germany but how that unity is to be achieved presents a perplexing problem. Today we have two separate German republics the "German Federal Republic" in the west and the "German Democratic Republic" in the east. How, as the necessary preliminary to a peace treaty, are these two to be merged into a single state?

The difficulty is that, since the two were created under different auspices, their characters are very different. The German Federal Republic is a democracy of the familiar western pattern. It has a government responsible to a freely elected parliament. It has the usual western political freedoms, of speech, of the press, of association. The eastern German state, by contrast, is not, by ordinary western standards, a democracy at all. It is essentially totalitarian. All power is in the hands of the leaders of a single party. No opposition is permitted. The parliament was the product of an "election" in which there could be no opposition candidates: so that it is, in effect, composed of Communist nominees. There is not freedom of the press, of speech or of organization. So far, there has been no sign of any real intention to allow these freedoms in eastern Germany, or to create there the conditions in which it would be possible to hold free elections. On the contrary, the East German government has even refused to allow a United Nations commission to enter its territory to examine and report on the matter.

Here, then, is the kernel of the whole problem. The restoration of democratic freedoms in the Soviet zone of Germany would open the way at once for the holding of free all-German elections and the formation of an all-German government. That, in turn, would open the way for the negotiation of a peace treaty. But without the first, the other two remain impossible.

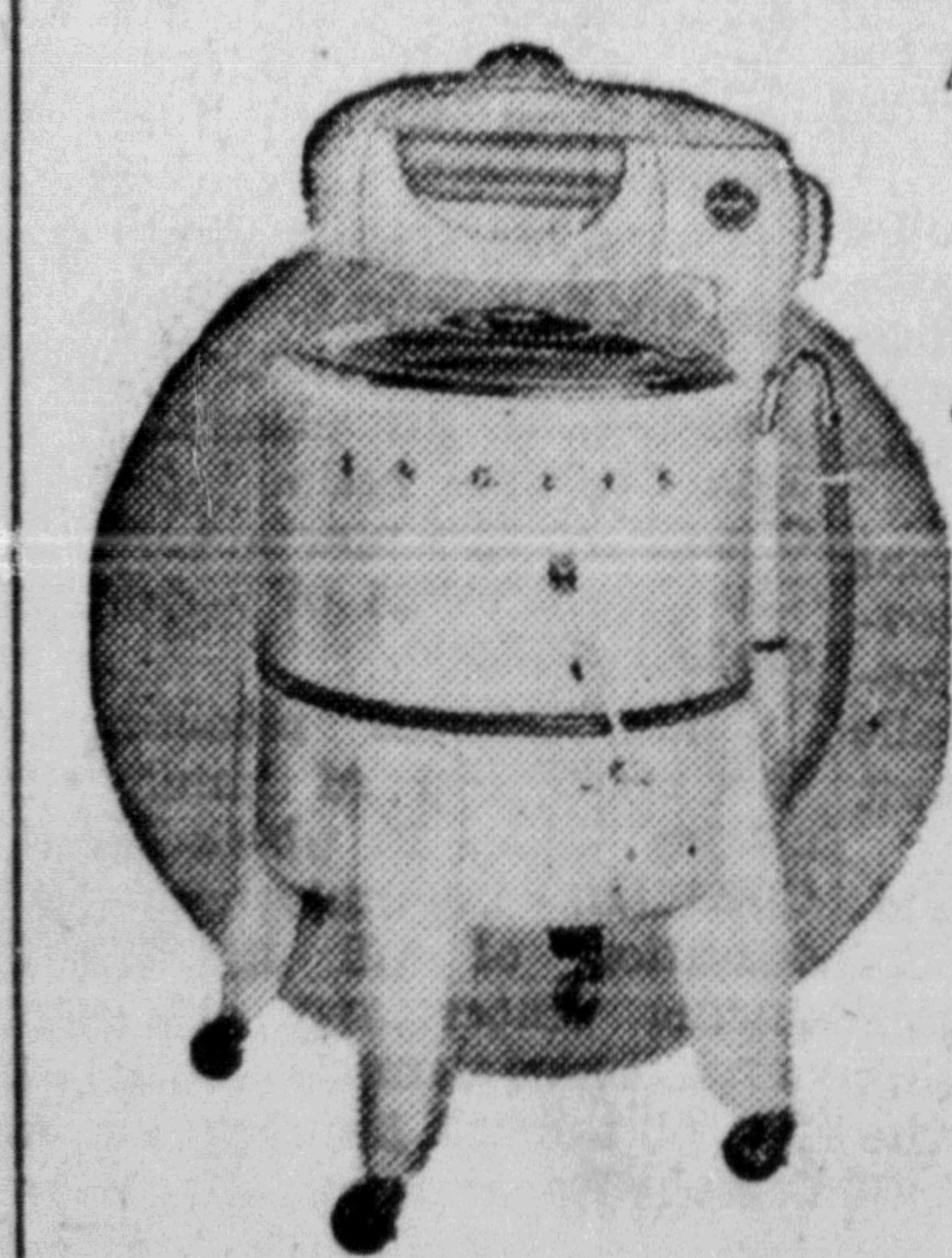
Are the Russians and East German Communists prepared to concede this and to take the necessary action? Their words are still somewhat ambiguous. hoped that further communication from Moscow will do something to clarify this all-essential point. For something to clarify this all-essential point. For, until it is clarified, discussion of the possible contents of a peace treaty, though interesting enough, must be rather unreal.

## Keep Them Coming

SAID David A. Croll (representing Spadina), addressing the federal Parliament: "We need more Canadians. In order to have more Canadians we need more immigrants and we need them now. Years ago Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the twentieth century belongs to Canada. Like so many words of that great and far-seeing Liberal, this prophecy is coming true today. With half the century over we find today that the world is our oyster. Our voices are heard in the councils of the world. Our prestige is high. On every side we hear our praises sung. We are fourth among the trading nations and first on a per capita basis. Our standard of living is second only to that of the United States. Our finances are in excellent condition. I feel certain that my generation shares Sir Wilfrid's optimism. Our great need today is people and more people. I ask the government to keep them coming."

## Scripture Passage for Today

"Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence."  
—Psalm 31:20.



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## As I See It



by  
Elmore  
Philpott

### Thanks to the Queen

REIGNS of queens always have been lucky for the British world realm. Already the fact that Canada has a queen has had one fortunate effect.

It now looks as if we really will get one generally accepted English-language version of O Canada. In other words, it looks as if some Vancouver organizations will, at long last, fall in line with all the rest of Canada, and sing the same words that are sung across the rest of this great land.

SINCE 1927, when parliament suggested it be standard, almost all English-speaking Canadians have sung this Weir version of O Canada:

O Canada, Our home and native land;  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The true North, strong and free,  
And stand on guard, O Canada.

We stand on guard for thee.  
I heard Vancouver school children singing that fine song a few days ago, but down town some organizations DID sing this Buchanan version until the late king died:

O Canada! Our heritage,  
our love,  
Thy love we praise all other lands above  
From sea to sea, through-out thy length  
From pole to border land.  
At Britain's side what'er betide,  
Unflinchingly we'll stand.  
With hearts we sing "God save the King."  
"Guide 'thou the Empire wide, do we implore  
"And prosper Canada,  
from shore to shore."

You just can't get "God save the Queen" into the above without spoiling the whole thing.

THE CONFUSION in versions arose in the first place because the words were written in French. In Ontario, when I was a boy, we were all taught this fair approximation to the original French words:

O Canada, our father's land  
of old,  
Thy brow is crowned with  
leaves of red and gold.  
Beneath the shade of the  
holly cross, thy children  
own their birth...

That version was apparently considered too French and Catholic for Protestant Canada, though it never struck me that way. So we got dozens of versions, which gradually dropped down to two.

Now it looks like one survivor.

IT DOES NOT do to be too literal minded about these songs. The people who were the most vociferous for standing "at Britain's side what'er betide" showed a remarkable cooling off during the years when the Labor government was in. They have a wary eye on Bevan now.

Also in some circles in Canada you may be considered somewhat subversive if you question the infallibility of the United States. If we translated the reality into song we might have to make it:

"At Uncle's side, what'er betide." Or maybe:

"What ho! Nato!"  
Seriously, it looks as if we'll settle for standing on guard for Canada in song even though the literal minded may point out that our boys are in Germany.

## Organizing Civil Defence

With training of the first class of civil defence instructors well under way, about 120 volunteers will be accepted for classes in about a month, says Co-ordinator W. H. Hill. Instruction will cover basic first aid and one other subject.

Mr. Hill expects about eight classes to get under way by the end of April.

Present list of volunteers totals about 40, with at least 40 more expected from the current nurses' class in ABC warfare.

Meanwhile, St. John Ambulance Brigade is going to start classes April 18 for qualified first aid instructors. It is expected between eight and 12 candidates will take this course, upon completion of which they will be assigned to instructing civil defence volunteers.

## Truman Bides Own Good Time

Political Plans More Clouded Than Ever

WASHINGTON (CP)—President Truman's 1952 political plans were more clouded than ever today as a result of his public rebuke of Democratic party chairman Frank McKinney.

Whatever else may be deduced from the President's press conference at Key West, Fla., vacation headquarters yesterday, he left three things clear:

1. He still is considering seeking another term.
2. He still considers himself the boss of the party and isn't letting anyone else speak for him.
3. He will make his decision and his announcement in his own good time despite pressure from Democrats for an early statement.

McKinney had told reporters he believed Korean developments would play a paramount part in whether the president would seek re-election. He said he didn't think Truman would run again if the Korean war were settled soon.

Asked about this, the President declared that Korea does not enter into United States politics at all. It had no bearing on what he would decide to do. Truman also reiterated that he would decide when to make an announcement on his plans. McKinney had said he expected a decision before May 15.

While Truman dropped no hint of his plans, there was plenty of speculation from other sources.

Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, secretary of agriculture in Truman's cabinet from 1945 to 1948, told a reporter he believes Truman will run for re-election.

Despite the President's denial, he sided with McKinney's belief that Korea would have a bearing on Truman's decision.

"I believe if we could achieve complete peace the President would not run," Anderson said. "But we are not going to have complete peace by July. The President will be asked by the Democratic convention to run again and he will heed the convention's plea."

In the Republican political camp, the top matters were still

## Asks, Colorful Coronation

LONDON (CP)—Works Minister David Eccles wants next year's coronation of Queen Elizabeth II to be the most colorful spectacle in living memory.

"See what you can do to help the ministry of works to make it a good coronation out of very little," he told members of the Federation of Painting Contractors.

"Next year we really have to do something tremendous, so bully your people into making it a really gay and attractive pageant. Don't let us have all this sombre business. Let us break out and have the best coronation ever."

Eccles also told the paint men it was time they departed from the tradition of sombre, colorless clothing.

"Eight out of 10 men," he said, "leave their homes to go to the office every morning perfectly dressed for a funeral. We ought to wear something more colorful and Elizabethan."

whether Gen. Dwight Eisenhower would return before the party convention in July to campaign actively for the presidential nomination.

Pleased by the number of votes he received in preferential primaries in New Hampshire and Minnesota, Eisenhower issued a statement from his headquarters in Paris saying:

"The mounting numbers of my fellow citizens who are voting to make me the Republican nominee are forcing me to re-examine my personal position and past decision."

In Key West, President Truman said earlier that Eisenhower, supreme commander of North Atlantic Pact forces in Europe, was at liberty to return to the U.S. any time he deemed it safe and proper.

Another development in the Republican picture was the decision by Senator Robert Taft to withdraw his name from the New Jersey primary. Taft dropped out with a hotly-worded statement to Governor Alfred Driscoll accusing him of having "broken his word" to remain publicly neutral and of having lined up the state Republican organization behind Eisenhower.

## ray...

Reflects and Reminisces

### DOUBTLESS A FEW

"Freedom needs an anchor," says John Diefenbaker of Lake Centre (Sask) in introducing his Bill of Rights at Ottawa. Are we quite certain that some assumed privileges and licenses have not already been thrown overboard?

Not many, just like "Old Bill," are left. Bailey, had he lived till August, would have been 79. The British Army he served in and the India he knew, have disappeared. He represented a type and a colorful humor that had to be heard and seen to be even faintly appreciated.

There are many ways in which the advent of spring is hailed. Usually, this recognition has a delicacy, a brightness and fragrance, and other forms of seasonable contrast. In Prince Rupert for example, the coming of the oolichan means winter has vanished. This being a fish metropolis, it is not inappropriate. And so, Sir Oolichan — greasy, abundant and good to eat — Here's-How.

A century ago a few weeks back, there occurred the wreck of the Birkenhead off the Cape of Good Hope and loss of nearly 600 lives. This was February 26, 1852. The anniversary witnessed fitting ceremony. If ever there

was appropriate centennial it was this. In the parade of the Royal Marines, drawn up on the sinking decks of the troopship while efforts were made to save women and children, are seen immortal examples of courage and rock like discipline, self-sacrifice and steadiness. Kipling it was, who in his salute to these men, wrote:  
"To stand and be still to the Birkenhead drill, is a damn Tough bullet to chew  
And they done it the Jollies—Er Majesty's Jollies—soldier an sailor, too!"

SUDDENLY WEAKER  
There is something satisfying in realizing that there has been a time when the dollar was strong and the same dollar was weak when taken on a trip.

March flowers in Mrs. Patten's Third Avenue. As well as appropriate local pioneer children, lively and well dressed in gardens and home became a developed floral loveliness.

## First Baptist Church DUST or DESTINY

SUNDAY, March 30, at 7:30 p.m.  
MONDAY, March 31, at 8 p.m.

This is another in the series of scientific motion pictures produced in the Moody Institute of Science, Los Angeles, Dr. Irwin Moon.

A dramatic presentation of inexplicable nature. This film depicts wonders of the human heart and hand. In the animal realm, there is remarkable homing instinct of the pigeon; the bat, guided by its own radar; the incredible spawning of the grunion, a fish laying its eggs on dry land.

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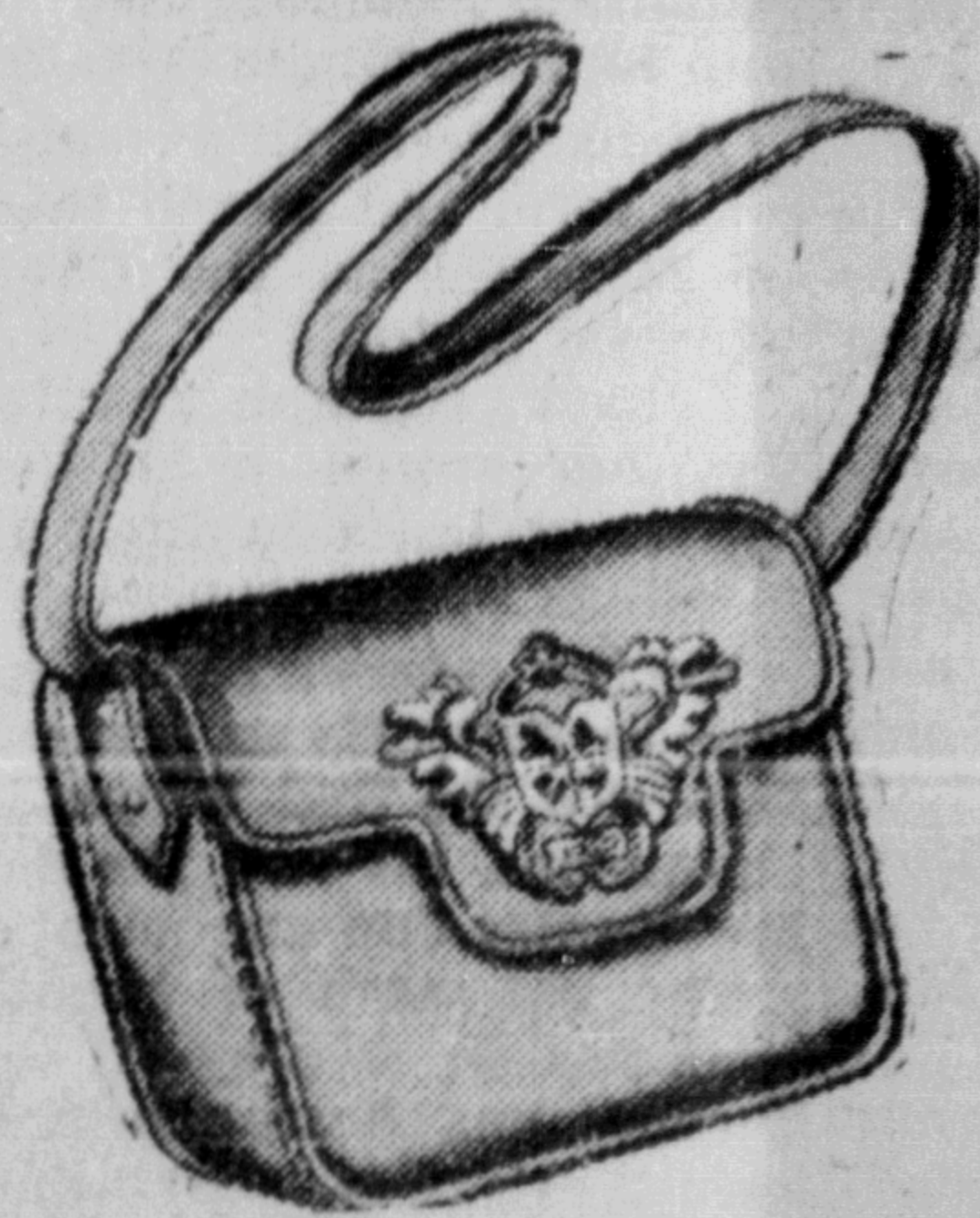
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