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## Decoration Day Tribute

IN OBSERVANCE of Decoration Day tomorrow, a group of local women dedicated to work of philanthropic or patriotic purpose will perpetuate a thoughtful custom that started 35 years ago. They are members of the Queen Mary chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire who will show their appreciation of what the day stands for by placing flags and poppies on the soldiers' graves at Fairview Cemetery.

It is a ceremony in which the Canadian Legion also has a notable part. But it has become particularly identified with the IODE whose members all across Canada have made it their special way of paying tribute to the memory of those who have fought in the wars of their country and died.

In Prince Rupert the custom owes its start to the Adair-Carss chapter which was formed in 1917 and took its name from that of the first local boy killed in World War I. In 1921 this chapter assumed as one of its main projects the upkeep and care of the soldiers' plot at Fairview. When the group was disbanded in 1932, the work was taken over by the Queen Mary chapter.

Through the years it was found that other interests made it necessary to modify the project from what was originally intended. But the spirit of "lest we forget," which was the motto of the Adair Carss chapter, remains loyally firm.

The gesture of gratitude and remembrance that these ladies make on Decoration Day brings further attention to the valuable part that the IODE as a whole and the Queen Mary chapter in particular (it is the oldest of the local chapters) have played in the social growth of Prince Rupert.

Started in 1910, the Queen Mary chapter has a history as old as the city itself. Since that time other chapters have been formed and not all have survived but there has never been any change in the readiness of IODE members to seek a good cause and do their utmost to meet its needs.

The ceremony tomorrow is typical of their devotion to service and country. It is gratifying to know that there are those among us who will always remember.

## Growth In Alaska

THE Alaska resource development board has just made its annual report on property valuations in the Territory's 30 incorporated towns and cities, revealing continued extraordinary growth.

Within the limits of these municipal areas there is property, real and personal, assessed at approximately \$260,000,000. Five years ago the total was less than half that amount; ten years ago, at the end of World War II, about one-fifth.

Alaska growth is not quite at the fantastic rate it would appear. A program of reassessment in the past few years has added somewhat to assessment totals over and above new building. But the latter has been tremendous by any standards.

Anchorage, with 39 per cent of the total, leads in valuation. Between 1945 and 1955, rapid gains. For each of the past three years, Alaska's second city has far outdistanced Anchorage in building permits. In 1955, typical of the three years, Fairbanks permits totaled \$7,000,000, those issued by Anchorage \$2,689,019.

Alaska is rapidly strengthening the economic foundations required to support independent statehood. Given the federal concessions contained in current statehood legislation, there should be little doubt that the new state could make its way and with the bright prospect that its new status would accelerate growth. —Portland, Oregonian

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## As I See It

By  
Elmore  
Philpott

### Simonds' Oversight

LT. GEN. Guy Simonds continues his campaign for conscription in Canada. Unfortunately, one of the world's most brilliant Second World War soldiers is making a bad mistake in his political tactics. He may be right in his argument that Canada needs conscription, but he certainly has not demonstrated that need as yet.

The basic weakness of the Simonds' argument is that his plan would build up in Canada a fighting force of a kind which, as yet, nobody would know how to employ in event of nuclear war.

What would it profit Canada if we had the complete conscription system, with compulsory training for all youths above 16 years of age, if the net result of that system were to produce a force quite useless for the kind of war which would ensue?

Those are the questions which Lt. Gen. Simonds may be able to answer, but which he has certainly not answered as yet.

I MYSELF made the only two speeches that have been made during the lifetime of the 22nd parliament of Canada favoring universal military training in Canada. I would certainly have no objection to fighting inside parliament or outside, for compulsory universal military service if it could be shown that such were necessary for Canada's proper defence.

But I must confess that I dropped my advocacy of universal military training as a result of what I learned in Europe last year.

DURING 1955, the NATO land, sea and air forces carried out "Carte Blanche"—the biggest war games which had ever been held in peacetime. From Norway, in the north, to the Mediterranean in the south, land, sea and air forces went into simulated action, exactly as they would in the event of war with Russia.

The reports were fully published in the London Times and other reputable journals. They clearly showed that, if "Carte Blanche" had been a real war, and not just a gigantic sham battle, all forces on both sides of the line would have been destroyed within 48 hours.

That is, according to the actual findings of 1955, the nuclear weapons which all the big powers now have are such as to make quite impossible the older fashioned forms of war which General Simonds seems to have in mind when he advocates conscription, and the build-up for a big army.

ACCORDING to the evidence given this month in the Senate at Washington, there is a probability that the DEW Line will be obsolete before it is finished. Both the United States and Russia are racing to get their so-called "intercontinental ballistic missiles" (IBM). But even pending their creation, both sides already have long-range planes, and enough hydrogen bombs, to blow the other fellow's country off the face of the earth.

It may be that somewhere into this picture General Simonds can find a useful place for a large army, created by conscription. I say it may be so, but General Simonds has not demonstrated it as yet.

Before he can convince the parliament of Canada, or the people of Canada that this country needs conscription, he will surely have to demonstrate that there would be a useful place in a nuclear war for the kind of army that conscription would produce.

Maybe he can do that—but he has not even started on that job yet.

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## All Aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE

Should I travel, or spend my vacation skulking around the yard? Thousands of men look in their bank books and find the answer: "Stay home, you fool."

Many of them go, anyway, because they feel they should. At holiday time, as at Christmas, prudence yields to social pressure. The women and children of the house follow daddy around with large, sad eyes until they break his spirit.

"All right," he growls. "Start packing. We'll enjoy ourselves if it takes my last nickel—and it will."

A graph of the family fortunes would resemble a snake with a broken back, or a cross-section of canyon country—plunging at Christmas and at vacation time to depths that rival the slump of 1929.

In between these two disastrous seasons, the graph climbs slowly toward solvency, which it never quite attains.

People who can scarcely afford to go on living at home feel themselves obliged to take costly trips. They travel on the rent money, or next month's grocery bill. Their unfortunate creditors who pay the shot, don't even have a chance to go along.

However, stubbornly careful folk spend the vacation at home, and some of them even enjoy it.

A no-day at home need not be looked upon as a prison sentence. The hollidaymaker can stroll through his place of work in a flowered shirt and dark glasses, staring haughtily at the natives. He can leave a tip under the plate for his wife, and try to make a date with her.

He can go fishing, toy with the home chores and possibly accept a paid job mowing neighborhood lawns; then go back to work refreshed, with money in his pocket, and look smugly down on his colleagues who return tired from long days of traveling.

### Riot Police Called To Nab Escaped Tigers

ROME (Reuters)—Three truckloads of riot police with tommy-guns and firemen with nets were rushed to a circus ground here yesterday after two tigers escaped, spreading terror through the neighborhood.

One of the tigers was quickly recaptured but the other prowled over the circus lot, terrified horses tethered there and killed a donkey before it was finally trapped.

Women and children in adjoining streets fled screaming as they saw the tigers prowling among the circus tents and wagons. Busy streets emptied within minutes, and storekeepers hastily pulled down their metal shutters.

## Government Sleuths Recover \$89,000,000 Undeclared Tax

OTTAWA (CP)—Revenue Minister McCann has given the Commons a peek into the work of income tax sleuths who check up on false tax returns.

Finally Dr. McCann stood up with a yellow-bound document. It was a confidential report of investigations made, he said. He would disclose no names. But he read a list of offences discovered, including falsification of business sales, inventories, expenses and donation receipts, and fictitious bookkeeping records.

He mentioned a few of the extra amounts collected in taxes and interest: \$29,000, \$225,000, \$411,000. He gave no indication of the number of such cases.

The complaints were made as the Commons reviewed the spending plans of his tax-collecting department.

He said Thursday night that they collected \$89,000,000 last year which otherwise would have been missed.

The money extra taxes, interest and fines—was about three times the cost of administering his department's taxation division, estimated at \$27,488,000 in the current fiscal year.

Dr. McCann made the statement after hearing a catalogue of opposition complaints about the way in which tax inspectors and assessors do their work.

The ONLY salvation which has made it possible for the national economy to sustain the trade deficit of recent months has been the vast inflow of United States investment capital into Canadian oil exploration and other natural resources development. Because United States funds have been pouring in on a sufficient scale, the Canadian dollar has been maintained at a premium instead of dropping to a heavy discount as would otherwise have been the case.

Canadian trade experts are



## OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MACLEOD

A GOOD DEAL is being made particularly pleased with this these days of the fact that it is typical of the times. In other words, it reflects the surplus of investment capital in the democratic world in proportion to risk or investment opportunities. They say that so long as this situation prevails, Canada can depend upon an era of prosperity financed by United States investment. And they are confident that present conditions will last throughout 1956 and well into 1957.

Yet the truth is that the increase in Canadian imports to more than \$530,000,000 represented the first occasion on which Canadian import figures increased by 40 per cent or more than \$150,000,000.

It is generally recognized in Parliament Hill circles that Canada cannot afford a monthly import bill of a half-billion dollars, unless export figures can be expended proportionately. So far there is little assurance that this bulge can be achieved.

THE COMMON reaction amongst Parliament Hill trade experts towards the rising import figures is that they are reassuring rather than otherwise.

More than 50 per cent of them are represented as being due to imports of capital goods, especially machinery for equipping consumer goods industries. To the extent to which this has been the case, the expended imports are represented as measuring the depths of the roots which the current prosperity is putting down into the economy of the country.

But obviously the national economy cannot meet indefinitely a half-billion dollar per month import bill. That would mean an annual trade balance deficit of one and one-half billion dollars. That is definitely too much for the economy to take in its stride.

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LARGEST OFFICE STRUCTURE in Northern British Columbia, the new quarter-million-dollar Trail Building at Dawson Creek, has been opened as the first full-scale Imperial Oil Ltd. exploration office in the province. P. J. Muicay of Victoria, chief commissioner of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act (shown at right above with D. B. Layer, the company's western regional exploration manager) officially opened the building and declared its construction is an expression of confidence in the future of oil exploration in B.C. The building, which is completely modern and has over 20,000 square feet of floor space, stands near the Alaska Highway and will be the headquarters for all of Imperial's exploration in Northern Alberta and B.C. and the Northwest Territories, under the direction of George Schutte, the company's Peace River district exploration manager.

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