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Too Good to Lose

AFTER the successful Labor Day celebration sponsored by the local Trades and Labor Council last year, it is disappointing to learn that there will be no such occasion this year. However, the reason is understandable. It takes money to put on an entertaining program, and apparently the TLC does not find itself in the happy position of having what is necessary.

Many organizations in town will recognize the situation as one they have experienced themselves. Public response to fund-raising efforts is always an uncertain factor, with the result that planning sometimes exceeds what the treasury will allow.

But it is sincerely hoped that the Labor Day celebration will not be lost to Prince Rupert for long. The vital part that labor plays in the life of our community makes it appropriate that attention should be drawn to it in this friendly, pleasant way.

We appreciate, of course, that the arrangements for staging a successful celebration require a great deal of hard work and organization. It is a big undertaking to ask of any organization. But when the place of labor in our scheme of things is being officially observed throughout the country, it is gratifying to know that Prince Rupert is marking the occasion in some special way.

And that is not all. Everyone has such a good time that we hate to miss it.

About Canadians

MR. J. B. PRIESTLEY, the English novelist, has given an account of his impressions of Canada to The Listener, the publication of the British Broadcasting Corporation. It embodies a view of Canada and Canadians in which all of us must be interested, partly because it is human nature to wish to see ourselves as others see us. However, to this everyday motive will be added a second, since Mr. Priestley's opinions provide an extraordinary mixture of acute insight and a sort of insular viewpoint which might have been expected.

For instance, there is his statement that "the all-pervading American influence" in Canada is "extremely regrettable." Then, going on, he says: "Now that the wilderness has been tamed, the next great pioneering job (in Canada) is to give color, style, individuality to the national life."

Canadians can best attain individuality by becoming cosmopolitan, not by refusing American or other influences, but by transforming them. We must not let Mr. Priestley or anyone else persuade us to lead ourselves into a cul-de-sac. Canadians must remain in touch with the age and the world.

—Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

ROOFTOP SQUATTERS PROBLEM TO LANDLORDS IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG (Reuters)—Squatters who settle on the roofs of houses are one of Hong Kong's trickiest social problems.

Roofs [illegible] a generous landlord has allowed [illegible] to build a little hut on top of his building and settle down. But within a few years, the couple have brought along grandfather and grandmother and an uncle and his three children.

The rooftop becomes a slum and the landlord is sorry he ever allowed the squatters to settle there.

According to the authorities, there are 650,000 people here lacking decent housing, but as fast as houses go up the population rises even faster. Births exceed deaths by 1,360 a week.

Apart from those on the rooftops, squatters congregate in yards, cellars and any piece of spare ground. Their houses are of boxes, cookie tins and old bits of galvanized iron.

Since the war, more than 125,000 slum-dwellers have been rehoused in well-designed permanent quarters. But the problem remains.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• Suez Quicksand

THE CLUMSY blundering of John Foster Dulles was responsible for the first part of the Suez crisis. But the U.S. Secretary of State never did a better cooling off job than he accomplished after his arrival in London. He poured oil on the troubled Suez waters, where some short-sighted hotheads in Britain and France might have poured oil on the flames.

As to Mr. Dulles' earlier responsibility, there can be no doubt. Even the ponderous and almost invariably pro-American Times of London says: "The ham-handedness of the Americans landed us in the Suez mess."

But Mr. Dulles proved that he can move quickly in a crisis. When he found Britain and France rushing pellmell toward the very position which they had deplored, but which he had so often assumed in the Far East—namely "The brink of war," he pulled them back sharply.

THERE IS no doubt that Britain and France would, in fact, go to war rather than submit to Egyptian interference with their shipping through the canal. There is also no doubt that if there were any attempt by President Nasser so to interfere with such shipping, international public opinion would justify whatever military action Britain and France felt compelled to take in such an emergency.

But there is a world of difference between military action thus necessitated to keep the sea lanes of the world open and military action taken in the vain hope of preventing a sovereign nation from nationalizing the shares of a private corporation operating on its territory.

The Suez Canal Company is such a private corporation. It is as much subject to expropriation under Egyptian law as the steel industry or coal mines were subject to British law, or as the old Grand Trunk Railway was subject to Canadian law.

Surely it is an obscene spectacle to see some of the top British socialist ex-cabinet ministers urging what amounts to war against Egypt for doing precisely what they did in Britain when they were in power—namely, expropriating a privately-owned corporation in which foreign investors had some shares.

It is because Canadian public opinion, and American public opinion, is very familiar with such expropriations that there would be no appreciable support on this continent for a military move designed to prevent Egypt from doing what we ourselves have done, over and over again, in our own country; and which we might still have to do in the case of the gas pipeline.

BUT THERE IS a world of difference between an attempt to prevent the expropriation of the Suez Company's shares and an international move honestly made to keep open the most important sea artery in the whole world.

In this latter respect, Britain and France would be on completely solid ground in warning all concerned that at the first attempt to interfere with their [illegible] they will take steps to deprive Egypt of the physical means of such interference.

But surely Mr. Dulles is right in insisting that any such use of force await the actual "crime," and not the mere possibility of it.

There is little doubt that Britain and France, between them, could re-occupy the Suez Canal zone. In other words, Britain and her allies could now retake by force the very position which the British Conservative government voluntarily relinquished less than a year ago.

But as the great Churchill pointed out to the House of Commons, when he announced Britain's decision to withdraw from Suez, a military base is not of much use if located in a hostile population.

But an even graver consequence of forcible re-occupation of the Suez Canal zone would be the measures of retaliation which the Moslem nations would surely take all the way from the Persian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

The allies are in a position to keep the Suez Canal open, by force if necessary. But the allies are not in a position to keep the oil wells flowing, by force, in Arab countries with governments at economic war with the West.

Brevity Key To Writing Best Letters

MONTREAL (CP)—The art of writing letters, particularly business communications, comes in for study in an article in the Royal Bank of Canada's monthly letter for July.

Entitled "On Writing Briefly," the article says: "If a piece of writing tells the whole story, or [illegible] that, it is not too long. Being brief means that you will not use [illegible] to tell a one-page story, but neither will you try to tell a 10-page story on one side of a sheet of paper."

Among other advice, it includes these tips:

"To use too many words to communicate one's thoughts is a sign of mediocrity, while to gather much thought into a few words, clearly and accurately, stamps the person of executive genius.

SOUR NOTES

"Men in management positions have a special obligation. Sour notes are not sweetened because the writer dictated them from an executive's chair to an exquisite secretary . . .

"Your letter will be well written if it fulfils these modest requirements: writing is effortless in appearance, showing no sign of strain in its composition; if it is untheatrical, making its points without needlessly sawing the air; if it is simple in its construction, making intelligible to the reader things that might be obscure; if its words fit your thoughts, not hanging like a giant's clothes on the limbs of a dwarf nor squeezing a man's frame into the clothes of a boy; and if all this is attained in the smallest space commensurate with the clear expression of what you have to say.

"We should esteem good writing, and show our appreciation . . . out of our evaluation of others' letters will spring a new centre for distinction in your [illegible]

TOO FAT FOR WORK

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A textile mill employee who could not do his work because he was too fat this week. The unidentified compensation although he quit his job, a commissioner ruled this week. The undientified worker, five feet four inches tall and weighing 195 pounds, was assigned to a job which required him frequently to pick up wool scrap from the floor and put it in a picker about four feet above the floor. He quit after one day. The commissioner ruled that the man left his job with sufficient cause.

THE CURRENT HIGH PRICE for copper has spurred exploration and development in British Columbia. This photo shows drillers and mining officials surveying a test trench in the province's Highland Valley, 300 miles northeast of Vancouver. In their hunt for copper, miners dig a long trench of increasing depth to show the strata at various stages across the property. The dark layers seen here may carry the metal-bearing ore. (CP Photo).

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

One of the curious features of the Egyptian crisis so far has been the general failure of the Western world to re-act to it as a possible shooting war. Stock markets on this continent and in the United Kingdom have remained unexpectedly impassive.

Yet Parliament Hill experts take the stand that no one can safely discount the explosive possiblities of the Suez Canal issue. If they don't really believe that a shooting war is in the cards, it isn't because they don't recognize that all the ingredients for one are ready-made and even tee'd up.

The real truth is that Parliament Hill opinion is counting upon the United States State Department—which for obvious political reasons doesn't want war in an election year—to exercise restraint upon the United Kingdom and France. Both these countries apparently are of a mind to fight. And there's every indication that Egypt is ready to oblige them with a fracas. But without the pledged support of the United States, the cause of English and French arms in the Middle East is regarded in the Capital here as heroic rather than practical.

That's the great crisis of uncertainty which has overtaken the democratic picture over the recent week or so.

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Curiously enough, the entire international picture has reversed itself over recent days. Hitherto the Western powers have been criticizing the United States very roundly for Foreign Secretary Dulles' policy of pushing the democratic world to the brink of war and taking in the process a "calculated risk" of provoking armed conflict. In the present situation it is the United States Secretary of State who has gone over to England to enact the role of peace-maker. In a year which is an election year in the United States Mr. Dulles clearly doesn't want Washington pushed to the "brink of war" by the determined attitude of the United Kingdom and France.

The significant reason why influential Parliament Hill circles believe that the crisis of a shooting war in Egypt—which presumably would fan out inevitably into a world war—isn't going to take place is simply that there is no enthusiasm anywhere in the world for a war, however justified it might be by old-time standards. United States pressure against the United Kingdom and France for settlement is regarded as intense. The question is simply how long Canada can walk the tightrope of United States-United Kingdom policy without becoming involved in large-scale war preparations. It is acknowledged by "Mike" Pearson and his External Affairs Department experts to be the most delicate kind of a situation. But the wise money is betting that the United States will not allow it to deteriorate into war.

REAR-GEORGE KITCHING, CBE, DSO, becomes vice chief of the army general staff Sept. 1. The 45-year-old officer will take over his new job with the rank of major general. He has been British Columbia area commander at Vancouver. He succeeds Maj.-Gen. Elliot Podger, CBE, who retires in September. (CP from National Defence).

Col. H.S. Tobin Dies Aged 79

VANCOUVER (CP) — Colonel Henry Seymour Tobin, Vancouver industrialist, died in hospital here Wednesday at 70.

He was best known as commander of Tobin's Tigers, the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion which he organized and led during the First World War.

Col. Tobin was born in Ottawa and served in the Boer war after graduating from Ottawa College and Royal Military College at Kingston.

In the late 1890s he was one of a party of five men who surveyed the first all-Canadian overland route from Edmonton to Dawson, Y.T. It was the forerunner of the Alaska Highway.

For a time he served with the RCMP in the Yukon. He later became a lawyer.

In 1918 he returned to Vancouver and resumed his law practice. By 1939 he was president of Vancouver Breweries and director of several other firms.

Col. Tobin was vice-chairman of the B.C. division of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Surviving are his widow, Margaret, and two sisters Mrs. Herbert Robertson and Mrs. Stuart Ross of Vancouver and a stepdaughter, Mrs. Frank Hebb.

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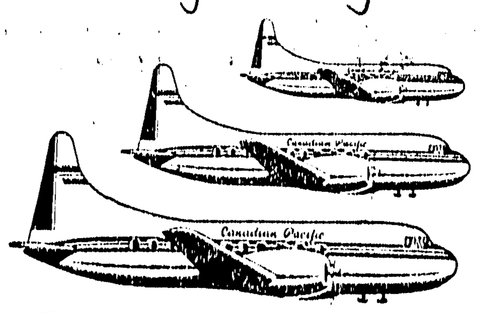

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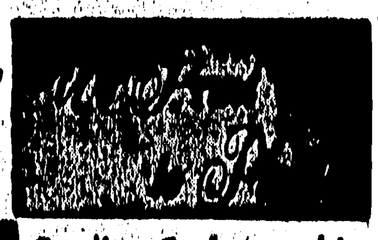

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