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Reduce Taxes

DR. COLIN CLARK, a leading British economist, disputes the recent claim of R. A. Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, that Britain can double her standard of living in the next 25 years "if we run our policy properly and soundly." Writing in the London Daily Telegraph, Dr. Clark questions whether productivity in the United Kingdom is rising at all, let alone rising enough to improve standards of living at an annual rate of four per cent.

Says Dr. Clark: "The advance in productivity during recent years (to which each political party in turn has been drawing attention) does not amount to very much more than the making up of wartime arrears. If you seek to compare the actual quantity of goods and services produced per man-hour now with that of 1938, no statistician is likely to estimate a rise of more than 10 per cent, and my own reckoning is that there has hardly been a rise at all. In any case, it is quite clear that almost every other country is going ahead a great deal faster than we are."

The chief reason for this state of affairs, says Dr. Clark, is the huge tax burden — some 40 per cent of the net national product — necessary to support the UK welfare state. As long as UK taxes run so high (and neither Socialists nor Conservatives seem able to reduce them) British industry will "not have a chance of making any real economic progress."

The situation in Canada is little better than that in Britain. With taxes taking close to 35 per cent of national production, increases in productivity are less than they could and should be. In view of the danger of increased unemployment, the federal government would be well advised to go easy on taxes this year and thus encourage business to expand and to increase production.

Changes By 2,000 A.D.

LIKELY changes in man's dominion over the earth by 2,000 A.D. are published by the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts in London after a worldwide competition to celebrate the society's bicentenary. They range from the imaginative, to the amazing and bizarre.

A single plastic dome will cover London, presumably to eliminate its notorious fogs. Letters will be shot to Australia by rocket and replies returned in a day. Shopping will be off moving sidewalks at second-story level, while traffic runs out of sight below.

Education will consist of hypnotism interlarded with games and occupational therapy. Physical and emotional pain will be abolished, also by hypnotism. Whales will be bred and herded like cattle. Timber will be cut and shaped in one operation by electrical charges. Sea mosses will be extensively cultivated as foodstuff. House lighting will be effected through fluorescent walls. Painting will become a universal form of recreation.

Most important of all, means will have been found to neutralize atomic bombs at a great distance. And all of this in forty-five years. The twenty-first century will be most welcome!

—Daily Alaska Empire.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

WHY THIS PITY

Don't waste sympathy on the people who work at night. They go on duty when most people go to bed. They are sometimes pitied for the sacrifice they make. Don't pity them. At any rate don't pity me. I am one of them: for thirty years I have worked in a New York City morning newspaper shop that does not really come to life until after sundown.

—Brooks Atkinson, N.Y. Times.

A dollar won't do as much as it used to, but hardly anybody else does, either.

There was the customary commercializing of Christmas, but there could have been more sorrowful moments. For example, consider this. Everyone needs and provides a job, even though it does not last long. Seasonal slump and winters' penalty are not, as a rule, so far apart.

Some folks can retire feeling in pretty fair shape and others can't. Once there were a couple of railroaders. One soon got in everyone's hair and died within a few more years. The other refused to look at a railway. He had taught scores of fellows how to run them. Latest word from him is that he's still living and enjoying life perhaps better than ever.

One good way to test your memory is to try to remember the things that worried you yesterday.

After all is said and done, more is usually said.—Reveille.

A specialist is someone who knows more and more about less and less until at last he knows everything about nothing. A philosopher is someone who knows less and less about more and more until at last he knows nothing about everything.

Now commences the monumental contest to remember to put 1955 on cheques and letters.

Fishermen report fewer sardines. In certain cities the total of street car passengers may be said to be falling. Its possible that each grew weary of being crowded in, just like one another.

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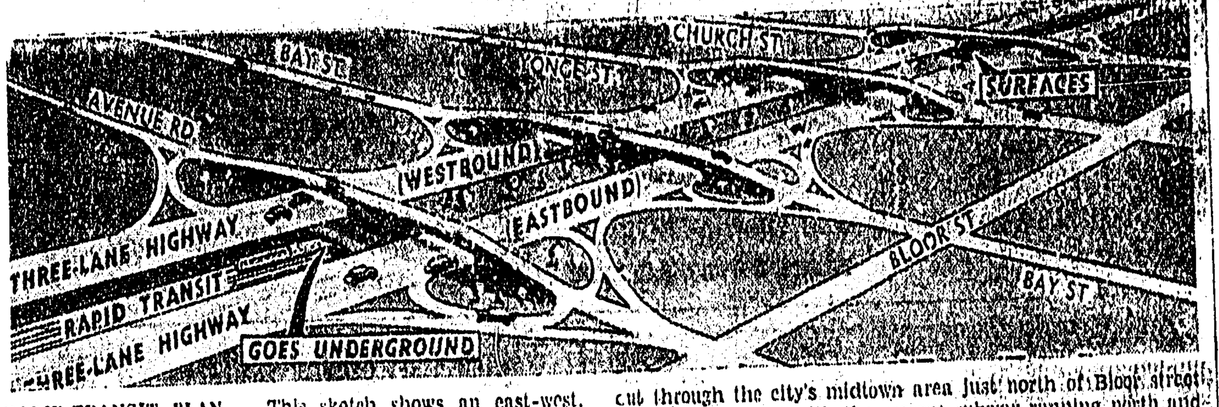

RADIP-TRANSIT PLAN — This sketch shows an east-west, open-cut, rapid-transit plan which Mayor Nathan Phillips is boosting to speed Toronto's cross-town traffic. The system — rapid-transit tracks between two three-lane highways — would cut through the city's midtown area just north of Bloor street and would connect with the present subway running north and south under Yonge street. Cost is estimated at $120,000,000

(CP Photo with drawing supplied by courtesy of the Toronto Telegram)

As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Lord Beaverbrook is writing part of his life story, in syndicated newspaper articles.

While he has been a whopping success in most fields he says bluntly that he regards himself as a failure in his main, lifetime crusade for the closer union of the British Empire.

He states that his drive for Empire Free trade was a failure and he denotes a good deal of space to his explanation.

✦ ✦ ✦

ALTHOUGH most of my own political ideas are a long way from those of the doughty old British Tory press lord, I share with him the conviction that the greatest lost opportunity in all history was the failure to co-ordinate that strange aggregation of nations and nations-to-be which comprised the British Empire.

At the turn of the century, it was true that "the sun never set" on the world-wide empire of Queen Victoria. The empire contained about a fifth of the land surface of the earth and about the same percentage of the world's population. The British navy literally ruled all oceans.

There was every necessary natural resource in the lands flying the various British flags. There was every technical and political skill. Indeed the other nations which were then overtaking and tending to pass Britain in the economic race had all learned the tricks of their trades from Britain.

Why then did the first half of the 20th century see such a tragic decline in the relative world position of the British Empire?

✦ ✦ ✦

THE British Commonwealth and Empire now contains more people than it ever did before—or than any other political organization ever did, in all the history of the human race.

The cluster of British countries contains a population which is not overbalanced by Russia and Red China combined. We have three, four, or five times the population of the United States—yet we have in fact become satellites of that mighty friendly power.

The two world wars clearly showed that—even beside France we were no match even for the single aggressive power, Germany. We could not have survived the first war, had not the United States come into it when Russia fell out. We could not have won the second war, without the help of both the United States and Russia.

✦ ✦ ✦

THE reason behind this explains why Lord Beaverbrook could not have won his crusade for Empire Free Trade.

Empire Free Trade would have meant a single tariff wall around the whole British world community. That would have meant some kind of common governmental machinery to make that tariff wall. That would have meant centralized government.

All the dynamic forces at work inside the British Empire were moving in another direction altogether. Canada wanted more and more self government. So did every other part of the Empire. The whole world trend during the first half of the century was for more nationalism, more de-centralization of all empires, except the new, disguised empire of the mind—Communism.

✦ ✦ ✦

THE pendulum has swung now, and the whole world trend is for integration of nations into groups. But the time has long since passed when it would be possible even to consolidate the Commonwealth's tariff policies.

The problems of Canada's trade with the U.S.A. now loom larger with us than do those of trade with Britain. Also, the main demand for higher tariffs this year comes from textile interests which are hardest hit by imports from Britain.

On the trade front, as on the military front, the British empire can no longer organize for itself alone. It cannot save itself now without taking the world wide view and helping to save all humanity.

A-Bomb Stocks May Rule Out Disarmament

CHICAGO (AP) An atomic scientist said today that the time for effectively controlled atomic disarmament may have "irretrievably passed" because of the swelling stockpiles in the United States and Russia.

Dr. Eugene Rabinovich, editor of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said neither the West nor the Soviet Union "can be expected to base their own atomic disarmament on the faith that the other side has not concealed a substantial part of its stockpile."

Writing in the January edition of The Bulletin, he suggested that establishment of a world authority capable of enforcing permanent peace be proclaimed the long-range policy of America and its allies.

"If the experts conclude, as I am afraid they will, that controlled abolition of atomic arms is impossible under the conditions of a world-wide abundance of nuclear explosives, this will mean that mankind will have to live, from now on, with unlimited and unchecked stockpiles of atomic and thermonuclear explosives piling up.

Couple Gassed

VANCOUVER (CP) — A middle-aged couple were found dead in a downtown roominghouse here Sunday, victims of domestic gas poisoning.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. A. Bescott, both about 66, were discovered by their daughter and son-in-law, who were calling to take the couple out to dinner. The deaths brought to three the number of persons who have died of gas poisoning here this year.

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Storybook Pair Western Prey In Red "Hansel and Gretel"

MUNICH, Germany (AP)—Communist Czechoslovakia has dressed up the classic Grimm fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel," into a brand new story all about borders and capitalists.

A Czech housewife refugee said here that she saw the Communist version of the old German story of the witch, the forest and the gingerbread house at Pilsen.

"The new Communist version," she said, "emerges as a tale of exploitation of children by 'greedy Western capitalists.'"

The woman told the anti-Communist version the parents of Hansel and Gretel are collectivized farmers, who, happily and contentedly, fulfill their norms. They are so busy working to bring in the harvest that they have no time to look after their two children.

Hansel and Gretel get lost in the forest and find themselves in the "hostile, capitalist West," where they are made slave laborers by Western capitalists.

The children manage to escape and flee back into the "people's democracy" of Czechoslovakia.

The moral of the play: Never cross the border, but rather help your parents fulfill their norms.

Brooklyn Firm Will Handle Machinery Sale

NEW YORK (AP) — The Aluminum Co. of Canada announced Sunday that S and S Machine Co., Brooklyn, will manage the sale of more than $21,000,000 worth of construction and mining equipment used in building the aluminum firm's hydro-electric and smelter project at Kitimat, B.C.

The company said it would be the largest disposal of surplus equipment ever undertaken by private industry. The sale follows completion of the first phase of the Kitimat project. Some 50,000 pieces of equipment will be sold, ranging from logging equipment to airplanes

PILOT'S NAME

The Plains of Abraham were named after Abraham Martin, a St. Lawrence River pilot who owned land there.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent leads off today in the first important debate of the new Session of Parliament, and it's interesting at this stage of national affairs with the new Session just nicely started to look back in history to British Parliamentary affairs of another day, 100, 200, or 300 years ago.

Two hundred years ago, in 1755, the Parliamentary life of England was in a strange limbo between the death of the great Sir Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister, and the rise of William Pitt, who became Secretary of State in November, 1756.

Parliament had just passed through that important and critical stage when the ministry became recognized as the executive committee of the majority in Parliament, from whom the initiation of policy flowed, rather than from the Monarch. And with that major change, which was the establishment in essence of the British Parliamentary System of government we have today throughout the commonwealth, there was a growing interest among the great masses of people in the direction of their own affairs through their representatives in Parliament. But the attainment of the ideal that grew out of that interest was still a long time away, before it was reached in the Reform Acts.

Parliament in those days met in secret—or tried to. There were news writers of the day, like Samuel Johnson when he edited the debates of the Senate of Lilliputia, who had to pirate the news of Parliamentary affairs out of the Commons chamber and disguise it to sell to the public for fear of imprisonment, or worse, by Parliament.

The theory on which the secrecy of Parliamentary debate was founded was an ancient one. Members had of reprisals by the Crown if they dared to criticize. Once the initiation of policy was shifted from the Crown to the Ministry, fear of those reprisals became no longer a reason for secrecy.

But secrecy was a convenient thing, and it was guarded jealously. Members did not like to make an account of themselves to their constituents. And there were a good many quid pro quo arrangements, with the quos represented by rich appointments, pensions or hard cash and the "quo," parliamentary votes.

An historian of Walpole's tenure of office said this: "For which he was falsely credited with saying that 'every man has his price,' he was always ready to pay the price of any man who was worth having. And he was driven to employ corruption so lishly by the very character of the rule."

That was Parliamentary life 200 years ago.

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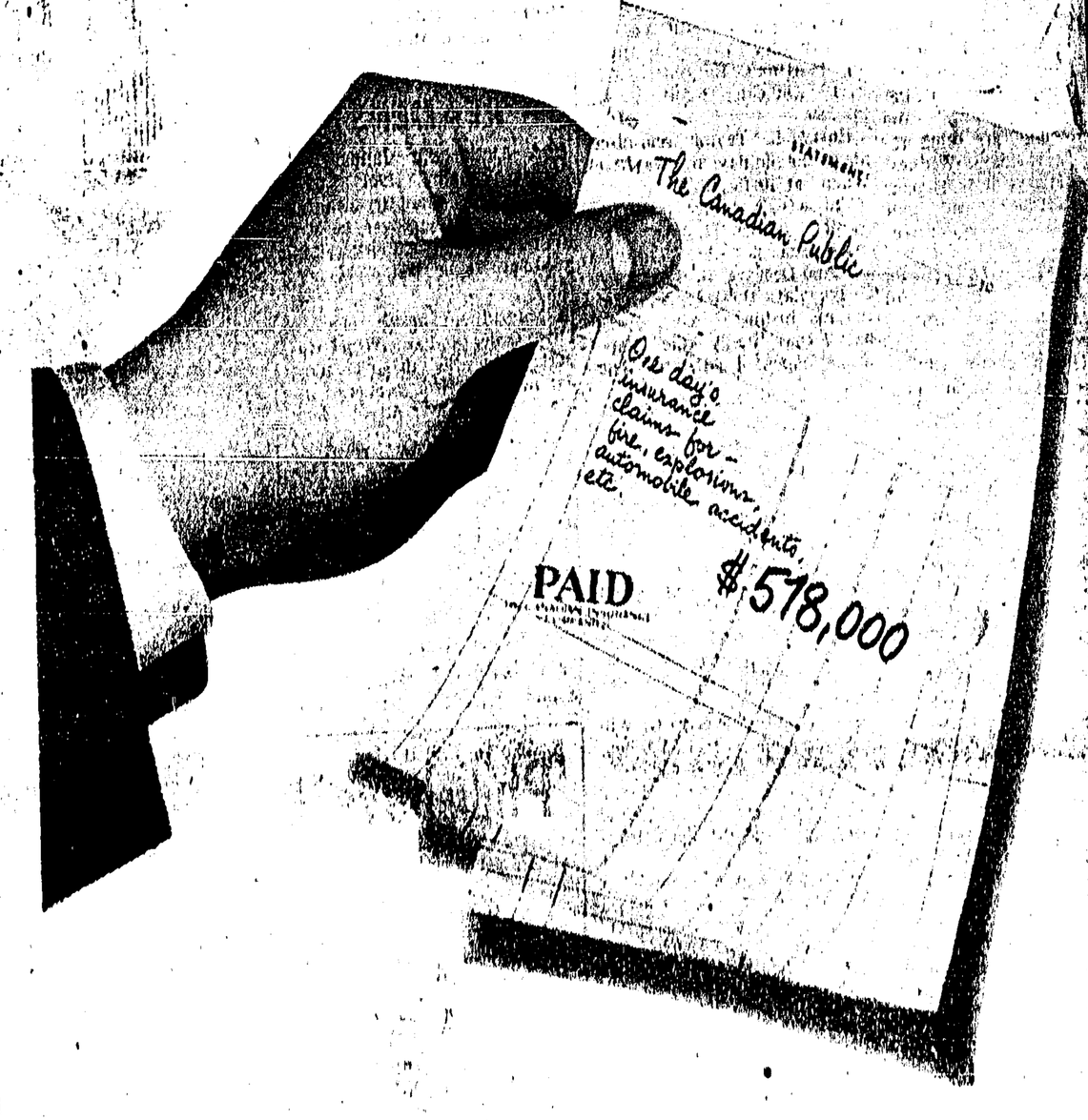

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