

Our Quest for Trade

ACCORDING to reports, the Japanese food ministry delegates who recently toured western Canada were so impressed by what they saw that they plan to increase wheat purchases from this country during the coming year. Apparently wheat consumption in Japan is on the increase and, from the point of view of shipping proximity, the Japanese look upon Canada as a natural source of supply.

The only, and inevitable, qualification is that they will do business with Canada "if the price is not too high." This was made clear to the Canadian Wheat Board by the Japanese ambassador at Ottawa.

The matter again brings attention to Prince Rupert as the most favorably located Canadian port for carrying on trade with the Orient. Its only handicap is the one artificially imposed by international authority which has penalized deep-sea shipping out of here to an extent that Prince Rupert, despite its natural advantages, cannot compete with other Pacific coast ports.

A less tangible difficulty appears to be a certain official Canadian attitude which either fails to visualize or deliberately ignores the possibilities of Prince Rupert in Pacific trade. It is learned on good authority that the Japanese food ministry delegates, in making plans for the trip, expressed interest in having a look at this port as a likely outlet for Canadian grain to their country. The big wheels went to work, however, and after a while the delegates decided the northern tour was not necessary.

It is not known just who was responsible for persuading them to change their plans but the general pattern is familiar. For some reason, which by now has become a tradition, Prince Rupert must be denied its rightful position on the main lines of Canadian trade.

Recently the local Chamber of Commerce resumed the fight to obtain for this port a greater share of Oriental traffic. The odds against success are considerable but the effort must be continued. The justification for it is so sound that it is impossible in good conscience to act otherwise.

Poor Advertisement

MR. NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, apparently the dominant figure at the Kremlin today, says the Soviet state tolerates religion because of power of the state is paramount but that "we remain atheist." Since he goes on to say that "we do everything we can to liberate" people from religion the degree of toleration that is practised may be suspect. And since "liberate" is a post-war term that in communist hands has come to mean its exact opposite the non-atheist in Russia cannot be very comfortable.

The right to believe either in atheism or religion is something that in western lands is taken for granted, each person being properly free to make his own choice in the matter. The Soviet state is the only one, or most certainly the leading one, to make atheism the official concept of the nation. If it is to be judged by its tyrannical habits Russia has no use for the gentler aspects of life that imbue nations which favor religion. The Soviet state has no compunction about holding half-a-dozen other European countries in political bondage, playing ducks and drakes with human liberties, or any kind of deceit that will gain it an advantage. Quite obviously there is little if any of the milk of human kindness in the communist heart.

Russia, naturally, is as free to follow a national bent as individuals in happier lands are their personal beliefs in respect to religion, but as the Kremlin has amply demonstrated communism is a poor advertisement for atheism as a philosophy of living. So poor that it should be shunned like the plague.

—Victoria Colonist.

Scriptures

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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Old Man Canada

THE final volume in the new biography of Sir John A. Macdonald completes a great history, and a great work of art.

The new volume is John A. Macdonald, The Old Canadian, by Donald Creighton. It costs \$3.75 and would make of the U.S.A., for the obvious reason that his most difficult task was to keep the Canadian nation from being gobbled up by the American eagle.

In the first volume, Creighton told the story of Macdonald's life from his birth in 1815 to his death in 1891. His task was not made any easier by the fact that in the tells the rest of the story. Now the young politician because Old Man Canada incarnate how he fought all comers to strengthen the young nation together.

There is an irony and pathos in the story too. For although Macdonald himself hoped that his great life-work was done in 1867, and wanted to retire, he was forced to remain to dominate the Canadian scene for a full quarter century afterwards.

THE Macdonald story is a great story because Old Sir John A. was such a warm-hearted, hot-blooded, strong and weak human being. In the first book, we have the story of how even when he was premier of the colony of Canada he and his friend the banker, Sir John Rose, went off incognito to the U.S.A., one acting as roadside bear master, the other, inside a bearskin, putting on the show.

Long before Confederation, Macdonald's alcoholism was known to every home in Canada, and indeed beyond. He was alcoholic Unanimous, but bear it in the end.

The Prime Minister had a habit of falling off the water wagon at the very climax of the first crises. In those days, newspapers pulled no punches, and obviously feared no libel suits. The Toronto Globe did not hesitate to print such news under headlines such as: "DRUNK AGAIN."

BUT Canadians tolerated Macdonald's drunks because he was, for his day and age, the truly indispensable man. This volume clearly shows that the most difficult part of Confederation was not putting it through but making it stick.

The real genius of Macdonald is that he never took his eye off the ball, so to speak. He knew that Canada could not survive unless it was bound together by bands of actual steel. He pushed through the CPR against difficulties much more formidable than the wilderness of northern Ontario and the passes of the Rockies.

I HAVE never before come across such clear evidence that there were powerful U.S. interests using the rebel Riel as a cat paw. This emotional response showed that a number of people in the United States—and other countries—were dependent to an unhealthy degree upon one man. One reason for it is a system of government that concentrates enormous power and responsibility in one man's hands.

But here is another possible reason. Can it be that this age of insecurity has produced a kind of mass retreat toward childhood, so that people look up to a statesman as a strong universal father who does all their thinking for them? If this is the case, grown-up children will naturally feel a sense of loss at the withdrawal of that guiding hand.

Circumstances are different in Canada. But we would be wise to fight against the feeling of dependence, and remind ourselves continually that leaders are only human, and can be replaced by others who are equally strong and efficient, if we have the sense to choose them.



GILLIAN BAIRD, 14-year-old British plaided actress, has been chosen to play the starring role in KCB-TV's "Alice in Wonderland" Sunday, October 23. Maude Evans, who is presenting the show on the Hallmark Hall of Fame series, selected Gillian from over 300 youngsters to play Alice.

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All Aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE

President Eisenhower is the much-revered leader of a great nation. Millions look up to him as a soldier and statesman, and as a man. They wish him quick recovery from his illness.

However, among the people of the free world who hold the president of the United States in high esteem, there are some who feel disturbed at the panic his heart seizure produced.

The attitude toward the president seems to rise above mere respect to something dangerously like worship.

Worship of a human being may be acceptable to the followers of Father Divine, but in a political sense it is a luxury that a nation cannot afford.

At the news of the president's illness, politicians began running around in circles.

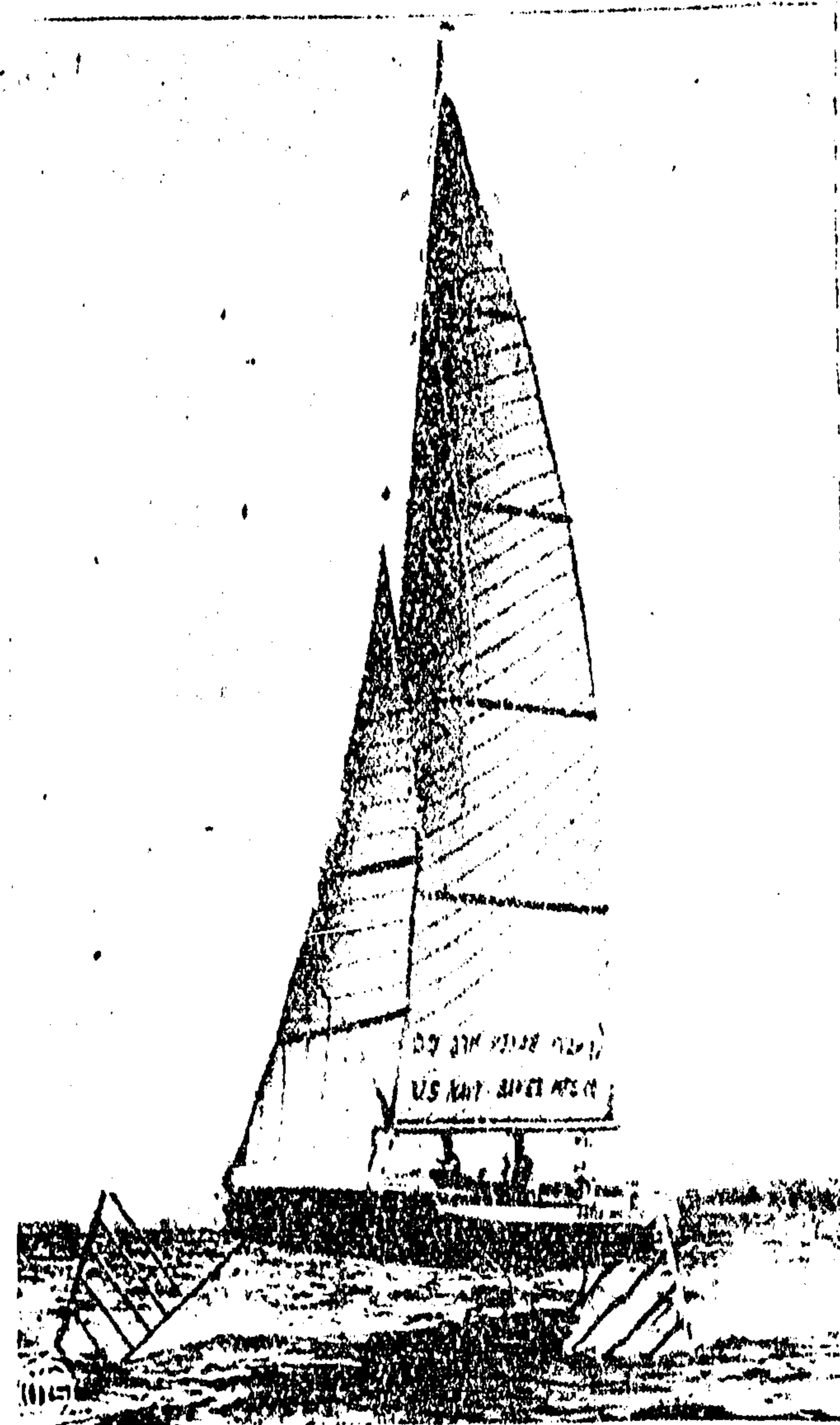
The stock market fluttered like a mid-Victorian old maid, and fell into a swoon from which it could be revived only by frequent whiffs of smelling salts in the form of cheerful bulletins from the sick room.

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WORLD'S FASTEST SAILBOAT? — In recent trials on Lake Mendota at Madison, Wisconsin, the flying sailboat "Monitor" exceeds 30 miles an hour. This is nearly double the best speed of the famous American cup boats, about 50 per cent faster than the all time clipper ship record, and faster than the record for catamarans, heretofore considered the fastest type of sailboat. This new breakthrough in the 2,000-year development of speed under sail was attained in a moderate wind about 15 m.p.h. and was made possible by the use of hydrofoils. Hydrofoils are wings attached to the hull which extend down into the water. As the boat picks up speed the water moving past the hydrofoils produces lift just as air moving past an airplane wing produces lift. With sufficient speed, the hull is lifted clear of the water and rides along on the top of waves supported by the hydrofoils.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

The task of rebuilding the Parliament library, from the outside, they found more and more need for repairs. The vaulted interior, the nearly disastrous fire of August 4th, 1952, 90-foot spire above the library is nearing completion. Parliament Hill correspondents, who have had a ringside seat at the three-year \$2,000,000 job from above the familiar copper slopes, the windows of the Parliament Press Gallery, point to it as a positive and convincing example of the Keynes theory that federal spending is the key to prosperity.

The first thing done after the contract to repair and rebuild as a fireproof structure the 70-year old circular Gothic tower was awarded, was the construction of a 12-foot high plywood fence round the building. The entire project of tearing out the crumbling interior, shoring up the footings, rebuilding the roof and the patching of the stone work has been carried on behind the fence.

Members of the Press Gallery, with a bird's eye view into the yard behind the fence have followed the progress of the work and of the workers with considerable interest.

In 1952 the starting work each day brought a parade of dusty and aging cars through the gate into the yard with a select crew of foremen, skilled workers and straw-bosses. The cavalcade of slightly battered cars included mostly models from the so-called "low-price" field.

Today, observers who have followed the project from the beginning, can't help but notice the change in this daily lineup of cars inside the enclosure. Few of them are "low-price" models, and almost all of them are new 1955 or at worst, 1954 models.

The final cost of the rebuilding job, originally estimated at something around \$1,000,000, is now set at well over \$2,000,000. The contract was left with an open end as wreckers tore into the charred and water-soaked

No Certainty of Elections In France If Faure Deposed

PARIS 15.—The possibility of a new general election in France is being posed by the impending vote on a question of confidence in the government of Premier Edgar Faure.

Most parliamentary deputies went to their home districts for the weekend to get the reaction of the voters to Faure's Algerian policy, on which the National Assembly will vote Tuesday.

The premier demanded the vote of confidence when it appeared he was headed for certain defeat. He has proposed a policy of limited reforms in Algerian economics, agriculture and politics, including free elections and consultation with the Algerians themselves. Algeria is considered a part of France itself, but 320,000 troops are in North Africa fighting rebel bands, and most of these troops are in Algeria.

By asking for a vote of confidence, Faure automatically postponed a showdown, thus winning time for political maneuvering.

It was the first time since he became premier a little less than eight months ago that he had asked a vote of confidence. Should he be defeated by the constitutional majority of 314 votes in such a test he would be forced out of office. And should he fail to get a majority he would be morally obliged to resign even if the adverse vote is not as large as 314.

The French constitution provides that if two premiers are defeated by a constitutional majority within any 18-month period, the cabinet, sitting with the president of the republic, can decide on a dissolution of the assembly and the calling of a general election.

Premier Pierre Mendes-France

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