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Prevent Fire

It is a tragic but pointed fact that for the past two years Fire Prevention Week in Prince Rupert has been preceded by a costly fire. At about this time last year flames did considerable damage to rooms in the Prince Rupert Hotel. This year McRae's store was totally destroyed by the same enemy.

It is an ironic coincidence that is better forgotten now except for the fact that it serves to emphasize that fire respects no date on the calendar, no one's property and—though we were luckily spared this on these two occasions—no one's life. There is nothing new about that little sermon and the world would be no point in harping on it if there was not the human inclination to think "it will not happen to me."

It may very well happen to you. Last year the total loss of property by fire in Canada was so great that, if every person in Canada had been required to help make it up, it would have cost almost \$6,000 per head. Nor was the damage confined mainly to large buildings where fire losses are apt to run into big figures. The record shows that more than half of all fires in Canada occur in homes.

Fire will call its own shot on big and little alike, and the only real mastery over it lies in its prevention. The purpose of Fire Prevention Week is not only to stress that point but to initiate a year-round activity designed to make Canada a safer place in which to live.

Fire Prevention Week is not a new institution. Dating back to the great Chicago fire of 1871, it has through the years developed increasing significance and earned a respected place in the regular affairs of every progressive community in Canada and the United States. It signifies the start of a campaign which should be carefully planned so as to enlist the co-operation of every citizen and of every organization in the community for a concerted effort to prevent as far as possible the loss of life and property as a result of fires.

Prince Rupert has had its lessons in the drastic meaning of fire. While the outbreak of fire is sometimes beyond human control, we should take these lessons personally to heart so that we are all on guard against this fearful enemy.

Cominform Going?

RUSSIA is about to abolish the Cominform, London hears. Understandably this report is not creating either enthusiasm or excitement. If this control mechanism of international communism is abolished, its equivalent can be expected to appear under another name.

Originally the international link was the Comintern, which simply was the short form of Communist International. It earned a bad reputation as an instrument of Soviet Russia's foreign policy on a world-wide basis. Eight years ago, with considerable fanfare, its demise was announced.

The Cominform, or communist information unit, took its place. But all who suspected that Cominform and Comintern were merely different names for the same agency of red conspiracy soon were proved correct.

It will be the same if the Cominform is liquidated. Partly or wholly submerged, the trouble-making Communist International will continue to range the earth.

—Windsor Star

Ray Reflects and Reminiscences

It's safest to tell your wife mixture is then thoroughly stirred, but tell her before bed, and one teaspoonful of it is everything else does.

There more tea in the coffee if a man who desires to get his cup than there is coffee in the pot should know everything or teacup? Maybe it's too easy to do.

Popcorn was grown and eaten The average Canadian citizen

Soap advertisement seen in a puts-in-a-bit-order better roads, New York paper. "It makes a more schools, more social services that refreshes, relaxes, and ease, and lower taxes." You step out of your car ready to meet all comers."

A coffee break has been ad- vanced to the coffee break, vacated for farmers to eat the identical cups of tea and coffee, rural accident rate. In the old days, if there was a stoppage, it was to take a dipper and a scoop to the coffee cup. The end then, a hooker from a pall

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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpot

Inside Family

THE most important fact about the Dominion-Provincial conference at Ottawa in October 1955 is that it proves we are becoming one big family. Families let their hair down when they meet.

The final volume in the biography of Sir John A. Macdonald clearly shows that in the first decade after confederation the provinces and the Dominion never met in any such family get-together. They met often to fight in court. At times their sharp differences bordered on civil war, as for instance in the early days of Manitoba.

Now, thanks to the good start

by Macdonald, as amplified by the present prime minister, all 11 heads of government in Canada sit down together

and try to talk out their common problems.

* * *

PREMIER Joseph Smallwood of Newfoundland tells how he

was appalled when first he attended such a Canadian family gathering.

There was so much talk of

hard-times and hard-luck, and the provinces were so strung

their desperate financial straits,

that he asked himself what

Newfoundland had to do to. It

was only when he learned that

it was just a good old Canadian

custom to talk as if we are all

in the vice of bankruptcy that

he was able to relax.

Actually no country on earth

has ever made such progress as

has Canada in the past 20 years.

The very real problems which

face the ten premiers and the

prime minister, are the growing pains of a great young giant.

* * *

THE main problem which faces

the eleven governments in

Canada springs from the fact that

the Fathers of Confederation

wrote the British North America Act to fit the horse-

and-buggy needs of 1867.

It has become hopelessly out

of date, but is very difficult to change drastically. Any drastic changes would raise those

questions of dual race, religion

and language which wise statesmen have long since learned,

should never be stirred up wil-

lingly. They have a way of stir-

ring themselves up, in any event.

So, because no political party

in Canada would dare even to

try to change the fundamental

basis of confederation, Canada

is compelled to resort to all sorts

of indirect ways to get any other

chances we must have.

* * *

AS THINGS stand, the provin-

ces find it harder and harder

to pay their way.

Old age pensions, unemploy-

ment insurance, and many other

welfare services were all things

allotted in 1867 to the provinces

now paid for by taxation.

Now there is a growing de-

mand for the Dominions to take

over more and more of the pro-

vincial responsibilities, even for

building roads. In my opinion

this is a demand which will

prove irresistible.

* * *

I THINK the whole present sys-

tem of federal handouts to the

provinces is unsound. If the

provinces need more money,

they should be given wider fields

in which to levy their own taxes.

But the only sound base for

operation in a country like Cana-

da is that the authority when

rises a tax should spend it, and

whoever spends it should take

the onus of raising the tax.

I think the provinces should

keep out of the personal income

tax field—but if necessary

should be given much more of

the money now raised from sales

taxes in Canada.

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Other Papers Say . . .

BIRD SONGS

One need not see a bird to be blessed by it. No plumage ever charmed the eye as a bird song charms the ear. Now, the hermit thrush is no Brunel among birds. But he is a Mozart or a Schubert.

Between sunset and dark in some mountainous and woody place he writes thin lines of silver on the dusk, moving as easily from key to key as a musician skilled in harmony. Able to surprise the ear by changing pitch without resorting to modulation, he can hold his audience here alone, but he will sing in ensemble as well.

Shelley sang a human tribute to the skylark and Browning to the thrush. Could it be that the great haste of the federal government to block the Kaiser plan was based largely on national political considerations. Now, they say, Canadian water

will continue flowing across the border to generate American power, with no return to Canada for many years to come.

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MACLEOD

British Columbia officialdom feels itself in the classic position of being able to say to the federal government: "I told you so." But their grim gloating brings no great satisfaction for the occasion, in their view, is the loss of the province's best chance to enjoy the potential benefits of the near-fabulous water storage facilities of the upper Columbia river system.

The so-called Kaiser dam would have established the principle of downstream benefits in Canada's favor. At least, the provincial spokesmen said, the start would have been made, the way pioneered for more and bigger deals. Premier W. A. C. Bennett and members of his Social Credit government feel strongly that the great haste of the federal government to block the Kaiser plan was based largely on national political considerations. Now, they say, Canadian water will continue flowing across the border to generate American power, with no return to Canada for many years to come.

That, at least, is the interpretation they place on the effects of last week's meeting of the International Joint Commission here. By voicing American opposition to the grandiose scheme to divert some 15-million cubic feet of water from the upper Columbia into the Fraser watershed, Governor Len Jordan of Idaho forecast a long, and probably acrimonious international dispute. And it was just that, Shelley sang a human tribute to the skylark and Browning to the thrush. Could it be that the great haste of the federal government to block the Kaiser plan was based largely on national political considerations. Now, they say, Canadian water will continue flowing across the border to generate American power, with no return to Canada for many years to come.

Giacomo Leopardi, writing in the early Nineteenth Century of a philosopher he called "Aemilius", said the latter found that "the same things which afford delight to us are attractive to birds also . . . No other animals save some domesticated . . . share with us a preference for amenity and beauty of situation."

Some would contend that the voices of the birds are more soft and sweet, and their notes better modulated in civilized lands like ours than in regions inhabited by savage and uncultured men."

And somehow it is not only more pleasant but more natural too when listening to a thrush to assume that he sings for all his listeners — not only other birds and woodland creatures, but for you.

—The Christian Science Monitor

NOTHING PERMANENT?

One of the most shocking items in the conscription system announced by Prime Minister Eden last Saturday

they gradually raise the draft age from its present 18 years — really evaded and dodged the issue," Attlee said.

Also under the new government proposal Britain's armed forces will be trimmed by 100,000, or 12 per cent, over the next three years.

Turning to disarmament, Attlee said:

"You are not going to get real agreement on armaments without broad political agreement on to put it no higher, coexistence. We as Socialists want to go beyond coexistence; we want world brotherhood. But coexistence is a start."

Attlee wound up by calling again for an international agreement to stop H-bomb experiments, declaring: "We do not know what the effects these experiments may have in the future."

Why need there be sensitiveness to public complaint when the customer at the wicket has nowhere else to go?

Montreal Gazette

GREEN-APPLE PIE

Green-apple pie has been on Nova Scotian tables for some time now and should have been mentioned before because, with many, not even the earliest strawberries outrank its tart sweetness, its spiciness and freshness.

And nowadays there are really no other "first" fruits of the year; all can be had boxed and brought from abroad or frozen and kept in storage. They are good, but not best, and that is why, in green-apple season, it is worthwhile to be living in or near orchard country. No one has yet thought it wise to attempt to catch the quality of the unique Gravenstein and to trap it in a can or bottle or package. There are limitations.

—Halifax Chronicle-Herald

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