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Public Works Needed

WITH the emphasis on unemployment and measures to combat it, the Speech from the Throne was not likely to inject the nation with any undue enthusiasm over what 1955 holds in store. It was something new in postwar history and served as a reminder that, even in a country of such fabulous growth as Canada, there are bound to be difficult periods as well as encouraging ones.

But the situation should not be considered any cause for anxiety. In fact, it may be just what the doctor ordered. Ever since the war when the country was alive with the construction of roads, airports and other projects required in the urgency of the time, there has been an inclination at Ottawa to let private enterprise take over the program of development.

Private enterprise has responded well and has opened up the country in an ambitious manner never experienced before in Canadian history. Inevitably, however, there are gaps. There are areas which private industry is unable, or does not find it worthwhile, to cultivate. We have instances of this in northern B.C. where large operations—those at Tulsequah and Cassiar come immediately to mind—must take the most circuitous routes to reach the main arteries of commerce. Either directly or through assistance to Victoria, the federal government could conduct a road-building program into those regions which would employ hundreds and simultaneously give a strong boost to the country's economy through promoting industrial expansion. Another useful undertaking in these parts would be the construction of an airport at Prince Rupert.

It may be sour grapes to mention it now, but the government's plans for increased public works also bring to mind our late lamented drydock. If ever there was a move calculated to put men out of work, the closure of this installation surely was it. The CNR's arguments against going into competition with private industry still stand, of course, but the half-hearted efforts to keep the operation going in some form appear strange in light of the remarks about unemployment made in the Speech from the Throne.

However, recrimination at this point serves no purpose. If we accept the metaphor that the situation as a whole may be just what the doctor ordered, let us hope that he makes out a prescription for the Pacific northwest. The patient is naturally virile but is languishing from chronic neglect.

Man's Mistakes

THE Roman philosopher and statesman, Cicero, said it 2,000 years ago, and it's still true today. The "six mistakes of man" are:

1. The delusion that individual advancement is made by crushing others; 2. The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected; 3. Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it; 4. Refusing to set aside trivial preferences; 5. Neglecting development and refinement of the mind, and not acquiring the habit of reading and study; 6. Attempting to compel other persons to believe and live as we do.

—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

PERHAPS SOMEWHERE

Gender and the [illegible] the French people [illegible] it necessary to wear hard-hats or any other form of bonds. This is announced by the Ministry of Justice. Perhaps there is some sort of consolation to be found here but it's dashed hard to see.

The fountain pen was invented [illegible] years ago but nothing that helps the owner from losing it.

ALWAYS SOMETHING OFFICIAL

And then, the sweet young thing let the bachelor know she would love to share his troubles. When he answered he had none, her reply was to the general effect that he would have to. That is after what is known as a ceremony.

A small town in the opinion of the Brandon Sun is a place where a fellow has to walk around a dog enjoying a nap on the sidewalk.

There is one safe-guard known generally to the wise which is an advantage and security to all but especially to democracies as against despots. What is it. Distrust.—Demosthenes in American Mercury.

The urban drift in Canada in the last half century has deprived the countryside not only of many of its young people, but many of its spokesmen. Not often now is a farmer elected to public office even in rural constituencies.

PAYING OR NOT PAYING

Many thousands of daily newspaper readers are unable to understand what NATO stands for. It is an abbreviation for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and because of this fact a great deal of costly space is saved which would have to be paid for.

Schoolboy wisdom from examination: A passive verb is one in which the subject is the sufferer such as "He was married to her."

General A. M. Gruenther commanding NATO forces told fellow officers in Paris that he found very few people could say what the four letters meant. He said there was one woman who had a notion it stood for a Japanese admiral. A friend in Gruenther's home town, Platte Center, Nebr., asked him where he'd been stationed lately.

How's the climate down there? he queried.

A wise husband never forgets his wife's birthday but he cannot remember which one it is.

When your dog brings your slippers and your wife barks at you—the honeymoon is over.

NO OBJECTIONS

The luxury liner Oceanic found arrival in Vancouver during Christmas season not unpleasant, even if the snowfall was first of the year. There were 341 passengers. Weather could be called wintry but to hundreds aboard ship, the spotless flakes became a novelty. Some folks had never beheld it before.

As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

What German Crime?

ON MY desk in the House of Commons is quite a pile of mail on the German question.

Some of the letters are from sincere people, horrified at becoming allies of the country which twice in this century plunged our world into ruin.

However, the great majority are from Communist, or Communist-line organizations. These latter carry no weight with me as I well remember how these same parties switched overnight in 1939.

For years the Communists had been the strongest advocates of the united front against Nazism and Fascism. Yet as soon as Stalin had made his evil compact with Hitler, protecting Hitler's rear while Hitler plunged west, these self-same Canadian Communists did everything within their power to sabotage our Canadian war effort.

It was not till Hitler double-crossed his partner that the Canadian Communists swung back. It was to their credit that from then on they did work heart and soul for an allied victory. But their real ultimate loyalty was to Russia.

If Russia were able to work a deal, next year or later, as Ludendorff did with Lenin in 1917, or as Stalin did with Hitler in 1939, these same Communists would surely swing again. If Malenkov could gang up with the West German generals, whereby a united Germany would be swung from the NATO bloc into the Russian bloc, these same Canadian Communists would somersault. From that moment German armies would be lauded to the skies. The bigger the better.

✦ ✦ ✦

IF ORDINARY people want to consider the question of Germany on its merits we have to remember what really was the German menace.

I take it that no sane person really accepts the monstrous doctrine that there is something essentially evil about all persons of German race. People who do think that way are, of course, just Hitlerites in reverse. If all people of German race were bad and essentially evil, then we would have to get rid of most of our own British royal family, President Eisenhower, General Gruenther — not to mention about a quarter of all the people who live in the United States and Canada.

✦ ✦ ✦

THE world wars of this century were not caused by Germans as people of an inherently evil race but by Germany the national power.

Germany as a national power came late on the stage of history—in fact became a single united nation three years after our own young Canada became a single federation. Germany's very size made her a dynamic upsetting power—situated as she is, squire in the middle of Europe.

Germany's real crime was that she was determined to grab for herself by force, what the Kaiser called "a place in the sun" and what Hitler called "living space." It was Germany, the national power, which deliberately developed the military doctrine of "calculated frightfulness." It was Germany which developed the vile idea of "total war." God forgive us, we took it up—and how!

✦ ✦ ✦

THERE is no hope for our world if Germany swings back to the old ways of power politics.

But if the Germans are integrated into an evolving NATO system of internationalism, and the step-by-step, block-by-block process of building world law on a basis of humanity and decency, then there is some hope.

U.K. Jobless Less Last Month

LONDON (AP) — Unemployment in Britain dropped last month to the lowest December levels since the end of the Second World War, the ministry of labor reported today. The number of jobless throughout the country was 256,000 on Dec. 6, a decrease of 1,600 from November.

PUNNING REPAIRMAN

SHIPBURNE, N.S. (CP) — The shoe repair shop of Henry Buskins, who has been in the business for 60 years, has a sign reading: "I doctor shoes—heel them—attend their dying—and save their soles."

I'M WRITING SANTA THANK-YOU NOTES FOR THESE WONDERFUL TOYS
— By Merle Tingley in London Free Press (CP Photo)

Resort Given Liquor Licence With Strings

VICTORIA (CP) — Harrison Hot Springs, multi-million dollar resort 85 miles east of here in the Fraser valley, Friday was granted a liquor licence with a unique stipulation.

No products of Seagrams Distillers, who own the hotel, may be sold. The hotel, refurbished at a cost of $2,500,000 following the 1948 Fraser River flood, may serve beer, wine and spirits with meals and beer by the glass.

The liquor control board issued the licence and quoted section 33 of the Liquor Act:

"No licence may be issued or renewed . . . to any person under agreement with any person to sell the liquor of any manufacturer to the exclusion of the liquor of any other manufacturer, or to any manufacturer of liquor or his agent."

Crusader Sent To East Coast

VICTORIA (CP) — The navy confirmed Thursday night that the destroyer Crusader will be transferred from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast.

Crusader, champion "train-buster" in the Korean War, now is in refit at Esquimalt. When work is completed she will sail for Halifax.

She will be replaced by the frigate Sussexvale from Halifax.

HAROLD G. BOURNE, formerly B.C. Telephone Co. division commercial manager, mainland, has been appointed to the position of general commercial manager, according to an announcement by W. S. Piper, vice-president and general manager. He succeeds Golden L. Frost who continues with the company in a management advisory capacity pending retirement at a later date, a veteran of 28 years with the company. Mr. Bourne has held various supervisory positions during his career, including those of development engineer and general commercial engineer. During the Second World War he served as a signals officer with the RCAF. He also supervised acquisition of U.S. Army landline facilities on the northwest staging route from Edmonton to Alaska.

All Aboard

By G. F. MORTIMORE

The Scots seem to have taken over January, from Hogmanay to Burns Night. It's a good month for a race of people who are cold outside and warm at the heart, like a grim old house with a blazing fireplace.

A Scottish friend of mine called Harry, always starts my day right with a shower of insults. The Scots are good at insults. Sometimes I manage to insult Harry first, and sometimes he catches me in a volley of abuse while I am still blinking the sleep out of my eyes.

"Well, you lube catfish," says Harry.

"Well, you porridge-weevil," I reply. And so it goes. The result is usually a draw.

The whole thing reminds me of a phase of my boyhood when a schoolmate and I had frequent wrestling matches. We bore no ill-feeling, but somehow it became part of our code of behaviour that we should attack one another on sight.

My performance was poor in a serious scrap, when I knew I did all right for a while.

Then I realized that I was beginning to lose all the time. The reason was not hard to find. My sparring-partner (a lad of Scottish descent) had grown about 25 pounds heavier than me. I suppose he did it on oatmeal. I soon tired of coming home covered with bruises. More or less by mutual consent we abandoned the fights—just in time to save me from serious injury, I suppose.

I have lost touch with my old schoolmate, but the idea of fighting him now seems ludicrous. At the latest report he outweighed me by 50 pounds, and for all I know he is still growing. In fact nearly all my old schoolmates outweigh me by 50 pounds.

My verbal duels with Harry remind me of those long-ago fights. Sometimes, however, strangers misunderstood. I detected a few raised eyebrows when I referred to Harry as a "haggis-worm." This is to point out that I didn't mean it.

I don't really believe that there is a type of worm that specializes in attacking Scotland's national dish. And I am friendly toward the haggis, in spite of all the cant about Robert Burns that I have been forced to endure along with it, at Burns Night suppers which I have attended as a newspaperman.

One time my wife and I actually bought a small haggis to eat at home, as an experiment. We were living in Vancouver (a town whose mud we have long since wiped from our shoes). In the street car half way home, I suddenly remembered that I had left the haggis on a window ledge in a restaurant. "Give me a dime," I told my wife. "I'm going back for it."

"All that way?" she asked. "For a little wee haggis? Someone has probably taken it by now."

"But we bought it," I argued. "It's our haggis. Imagine how someone will feel when they open that parcel and see the haggis. They won't know what it is. They'll probably throw it in the garbage can. It seems unkind to leave that haggis. I thought of it as a creature, somehow. So I took our last money for carfare downtown. The haggis was still there on the window ledge.

I bore it home in triumph, feeling that I had done a kind deed in saving the haggis from alien hands. It tasted delicious, too.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MACKENZIE

The Session of Parliament opening yesterday is the Second since the general election of 1953 and simply because of that fact it is likely to be more interesting, to those who make a profession of watching Parliament in action, than last year's Session, the first. For now it can at least be expected that most of the wounds suffered by the Opposition in the August, 1953, campaign have healed, and all parties, opposition and government, will begin preparing for the next come in 1957.

A father-son team assumed leadership in the Conservative group. Because of the continued convalescence of Col. George A. Drew at a winter hide-away in the Laurentians, Hon. W. Earl Rowe becomes temporary opposition leader. His son, Bill, was recently named national secretary of the party.

On the government side of the chamber, the leadership shows no change, of course, with Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent still relishing his job and showing no signs of wanting to retire. His right hand men are still Trade Minister Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, and Agriculture Minister Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner. He has a good number of young, energetic men coming up in the field who might succeed to the leadership if and when he does retire.

But Liberal members gathered for the new Session indicated they would give no weight to any rumor that might arise that Rt. Hon. Mr. St. Laurent might step down. They want him to remain through the next general election. And they indicate the "want" may be strengthened into a "demand" if economic conditions during the next year or two show the slump that some are predicting. Uncle Louis, they claim, will be the only man who can bring them through another election if political storm clouds are on the horizon.

Among the second[illegible] tion groups, the p[illegible] M. J. Coldwell as [illegible] Co-operative Com[illegible] Federation evokes [illegible] interest. Leader of [illegible] since 1940, he is now [illegible] 60's and recently [illegible] only the loss of [illegible] he was very greatly [illegible] a physical set-back [illegible] he has not snapped [illegible] vigor of his prime.

Whether Mr. Co[illegible] lead the party thro[illegible] strenuous election [illegible] close to his 70th b[illegible] question causing [illegible] Whether Hon. Mr. D[illegible] back to his old vigor [illegible] ing concern. A good [illegible] ising young men in [illegible] ranks are showing [illegible] their future.

All in all, it makes [illegible] esting session.

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