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Enemy Among Us

THE stir of uneasiness caused here within the past several days by one confirmed case of polio and one suspected is a measure of everyone's fear of this ruthless disease. Every day illness of one kind or another invades homes in our midst and, unless it takes on epidemic size, the rest of the city does not give it a thought. When the great crippler strikes, however, it is different. The news of just one case will spread in almost whispered alarm with the speed of a bushfire.

The reaction is understandable for polio, with all the terrible harm of which it is capable, has so far proved an elusive enemy for medical science. Although certain treatments have been found to relieve its effects and vaccines have been leveloped that are its effects and vaccines have been developed that are for beating the disease is still incomplete.

To help science finish the job and to assist in the treatment and comfort of those afflicted, Kinsmen in this province have established a B.C. Polio Fund and yesterday the local club began its annual drive for contributions. The simultaneous reports that a little girl suspected of having the disease had just been flown to Vancouver and that a supply of anti-polio vaccine had arrived on the coast were striking reminders of the value of the Kinsmen's efforts. Some of the money raised for the fund went into research on the vaccine, while in Vancouver the little girl will have the benefits of care which the Kinsmen have helped to make possible. The young Prince Rupert boy who is there after being stricken with polio just two weeks before, and scores of others from all parts of the province, will also know what it means to have the kind of help that the Kinsmen are giving.

But the Kinsmen can help only to the extent that we help them. If we wish to take a real part in the fight against polio, for both our own sake and that of others, let us donate generously.

Bad For Whom?

THERE is quite an effort being made these days to convey the idea that there is something bad about international unionism. In any number of Canadian papers there have been editorials suggesting that now, with unity discussions underway, is the time when the Canadian labor movement should establish itself on a national basis and divorce itself from its international ties with unions in the United States.

The significant fact is that this great hue and cry, accompanied by flag waving, comes not from the people who are themselves the unions; but rather from those who are most antagonistic to unions. It is mainly the publications which consistently echo the voice of management that are trying to wrap the Canadian ensign around our unions to a point where they will hardly be able to shake hands with our brothers and sisters to the south of the border.

There is nothing surprising about this propaganda campaign. Management would prefer purely Canadian unions for exactly the same reason they prefer company unions. Such organizations would be smaller, weaker and thus more vulnerable.

Trade union organization in Canada has reached its present stage of development very largely as a result of the assistance and co-operation that has been given by international unions. Time and again international organizations, with the bulk of their membership in the United States and the largest part of their resources gathered from that membership, have thrown their forces without stint into Canadian organizing campaigns and strike situations. This is not a situation which was limited to the early days of organization; it continues today and has been amply apparent in some of the more recent major strikes.

Naturally management would like to see Canadian workers lose this type of support; but it ill fits them, at a time when most people are trying to develop better international relations and understanding, to poke their noses into something that is none of their business in an effort to have Canadian union members cut their international ties. Certainly there is no sentiment of this sort in the ranks of the Congress of Labour. —Canadian Labour.

Scripture Passage for Today

Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ — II Peter 3:18. There is no such thing as equilibrium, we go forward or we go backward. Nothing is lovelier than an ancient saint. A hoary head is a crown of glory if old age has triumphed over selfishness and sin.

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As I See It

By *Elmore Philpott*

RCMP Drug Plan

THE evidence given by the head of the RCMP to the Senate Committee on narcotics is of historic national importance.

Commissioner Nicholson believes that the laws of Canada should be changed to force the segration in institutions of all known durg addicts. His suggestion is endorsed as a worthwhile erperiment by heads of other federal government branches also concerned with narcotic drug menace.

The RCMP chief argues that if it is necessary in the public interest to quarantine drug addicts—in their own interest and for the protection of society.

✦ ✦ ✦

THIS suggestion, made before such an authoritative body, marks a milestone in the public attitude toward drug addiction.

You might say that it is at the opposite end of the pole from the other extreme alternative, which is simply to register all addicts and then permit them to obtain their drugs legally.

It is claimed in some quarters that this latter plan was used in Britain and was responsible for the amazing reduction in the number of drug addicts.

The Senate narcotic committee has already made known its intention of inviting the top British experts to give evidence here in Ottawa, so we shall soon know the whole story.

✦ ✦ ✦

I WAS re-reading the other day that fine book on the drug menace in Canada — "Black Candle" by the late Judge Emily Murphy of Edmonton. Back in 1922 she discussed the free drug clinics in the U.S.A. She came strongly to the opinion that they were worse than useless and in fact became just additional sources of supply, over and above the criminal distribution.

But maybe it is true that Britain did discover some effective way of legalizing issue of drug rations to incurable addicts. If so, this Senate committee has the determination to find out and the means to let the public know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

✦ ✦ ✦

MY OWN mind is certainly not made up on the suggestion by the Commissioner of the RCMP. But there are the following points to support it.

The drug menace is entirely different from the menace of alcoholism. No alcoholic has an urge, much less a mania, to convert other human beings to become alcoholics. But, as Judge Murphy pointed out 33 years ago, one of the characteristics of drug addiction is that the drug addict almost always tries to subvert others to become users of narcotics and so enter his dream world.

The fact that Vancouver is the worst affected centre of drug addiction in America is proof of the fact that the contamination spreads like rot in a box of apples. All that is necessary is one bad apple in the box.

✦ ✦ ✦

BY RIGID quarantine of all people suffering from the dread disease of leprosy, we in America have wiped out and kept out a disease still common in the old world. I noticed on my visit to Jersualem that they still have lepers' homes there.

We snatch children from their homes if they have scarlet fever or else we quarantine the house itself.

In wartime we "intern" fascists, communists, Germans, Russians, Japanese—or whomever our current "enemy" happens to be.

We talk of segregating the whole Sons of Freedom sect in B.C. and we do, in fact, segregate the children of that sect in schools run under the eye of the police.

Yet up till now we have left at large more than 1,000 drug addicts in Vancouver alone.

These are sick people—not primarily criminals. But they are sick people with a nearly irrestible urge to spread the cause of their sickness to others.

FATHER GRIFFEUILLE of the Hargicourt Little Church (near Lille, France) studies the new ceramic Stations of the Cross donated to his church by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the West German government. They were given to the Hargicourt parish to replace those destroyed by Nazi vandalism during World War I

Revised Criminal Code Up-Dates Old Statutes

OTTAWA (CP)—A new Canadian Criminal Code, result of more than five years of study came into effect yesterday.

The new code replaces a hodge-podge of criminal law that was first enacted in 1892 and to which section after section was added at almost every parliamentary session since then.

When the massive revision started in 1949, there were more than 1,100 sections, many couched in obscure, archaic and ambiguous language. Some sections were repetitious or duplicated provisions in other statutes.

NOW 750 SECTIONS

All that, parliamentarians and lawyers believe, has been eliminated. The new code's 750 sections is simpler than the old and worded in clearer language.

It probably never will make the best-seller lists, but the layman can understand it.

Two royal commissions, both headed by Chief Justice W. M. Martin of Saskatoon, worked at the revision before turning in their draft code to Parliament for further changes.

The first commission in 1949 laid down some general principles that should be followed in the new code. The second, appointed in 1951, prepared a draft code and a report which was handed to Justice Minister Garson in January, 1953.

A Senate committee headed by Senator Salter Hayden (L-Ontario) studied the code clause-by-clause but Parliament adjourned before it could make its report.

Justice department officials further reviewed the draft code during the summer of 1952 in the light of the Senate committee's study and when Parliament reassembled in November the draft again was studied by the Senate.

SENT TO COMMONS

The code was approved by the upper chamber and sent to the Commons in January, 1953, where it was given detailed study by a committee headed by Don Brown (L-Essex West), a lawyer.

Parliament prorogued before the bill could go through the Commons. However, it was reintroduced in January, 1954, and was finally adopted last June.

Throughout these various stages of study, some sections were changed and counter-changed. There were more than 250 amendments to the draft code.

DIVIDED IN GROUPS

A major policy in the new code is the division of maximum sentences into there groups: Death, life imprisonment, 14 years, 10 years, five years and two years. Indictable offences are grouped under the sentences, depending on the seriousness of the crime.

Sentences provided in the old code followed an apparent pattern or principle. They varied for every offence, with no attempt to group crimes, depending on the seriousness, under any one penalty.

Another big change is that there are no minimum sentences fixed by law, except for drunken driving, impaired driving and theft from the mails.

Summary convictions provide penalties of six months in jail andor a $500 fine for minor offences tried before judge alone.

Despite all the work so far revision of the Criminal Code still is not ended.

A joint Commons-Senate committee is expected to report later this session on whether the code's section on capital and corporal punishment and lotteries should be amended. The committee, headed jointly by Senator Hayden and Mr. Brown, was set up last session and again this year.

The big question before the 27-member committee is whether to abolish or retain hanging and flogging and whether to restrict or widen the laws on games of chance.

Meanwhile, two royal commissions, headed by Chief Justice J. C. McReur of the Supreme Court of Ontario, are studying whether the code's sections on the defence of insanity and criminal sexual psychopaths should be amended.

BIG IMPROVEMENT

The infant mortality rate in France in 1953 was 42 per cent lower than in pre-war years.

P. K. PAGE of Ottawa and Canberra, Australia, has been awarded the Governor-General's literary award for Poetry for 1954 for her book "The Metal and the Flower." (CP Photo)

Gouzenko Wins Medal For Fiction

TORONTO (CP)—Igor Gouzenko, former cipher clerk in the Soviet embassy at Ottawa, was today named winner of the governor-general's literary award for fiction.

He wins the 1954 award with "The Fall of a Titan," a story of the struggle for personal power in the Soviet Union before the great purge of the 1930s. Now 36, Gouzenko threw up his job in 1945 and risked his life to expose espionage activities in Canada.

Announcement of the prize and four other awards for 1954 was made by R. D. Hilton Smith of Toronto, chairman of the awards board of the Canadian Authors Association.

NOTED WRITERS

Other awards:

Creative non-fiction: "Thirty and Three," Hugh MacLennan, Montreal.

Academic non-fiction: "This Most Famous Stream," Arthur R. M. Lower, Kingston, Ont.

Poetry: "The Metal and the Flower," P. K. Page, Ottawa and Canberra, Australia.

Juvenile: "The Nor'westers," Marjorie Wilkins Campbell, Toronto.

Mr. MacLennan's book, "Thirty and Three," is a collection of short, skilful essays on diverse themes. Dr. Lower's "This Most Famous Stream" is an analysis of the development of democracy in Western society.

Igor Gouzenko was born in Regochova, near Moscow, in 1919. Until he was 14 he lived most of the time at Rostov-on-Don, the scene of his prize-winning novel. Because of his academic record at secondary school he was sent to Kuibishev military engineering academy from which he was posted to the cipher division of military intelligence headquarters at Moscow with the rank of lieutenant.

FLED EMBASSY

In June 1943 he was sent to Ottawa and a little more than two years later fled from the Soviet embassy with the information that resulted in the spy trials. During the 18 months when he was testifying at the trials he prepared the material for his first book, "This Was My Choice," published in 1948.

He became a Canadian citizen in 1947 by special letters patent. The award-winning "The Fall of a Titan," is the result of five years of writing and re-writing. Of it he says: "This is one of my ways to strengthen democracy."

Hugh MacLennan, winner of the creative non-fiction award, is one of Canada's best-known writers. The award is his second success in the same category and he has also received two governor-general's awards for fiction.

Born in Glace Bay, N.S., 48 years ago, he is associate-professor of English at McGill University. He has written four novels and won a governor-general's fiction award in 1945 with "Two Solitudes." He repeated in 1948 with "The Precipice." Mr. MacLennan first won the creative non-fiction award in 1940 with his essay collection, "Cross Country."

Dr. Arthur R. M. Lower, winner of the academic non-fiction award, has been professor of Canadian history at Queen's University since 1947. He was born at Barrie, Ont., 65 years ago.

STUDENT ADMINISTRATORS

SYDNEY, N.S. (CP)—Students at Holy Angels convent here have set up the first autonomous high school credit union in Nova Scotia. Its account is held by the sponsoring Sydney credit union but students have their own directors and supervisory committee.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. McL...

Since individuals with an authentic genius for public life don't turn up too often, Parliament Hill circles normally wouldn't be optimistic about discovering another Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent in this political generation.

But recent events are serving to unsettle this opinion. Close observers in these parts actually are commencing to wonder, if the miracle which transposed the present Prime Minister and chieftain of the Liberal Party from professional to public life may not already have been duplicated in their midst.

Speculation of this nature centres around the person of Hon. George C. Marler, Minister of Transport.

Mr. Marler gave his first major parliamentary performance during the past week when he closed the two-day debate on setting up the sessional committee on government-owned transportation services. Both his manner and his effectiveness reminded MPs and Press Gallery correspondents of Rt. Hon. Mr. St. Laurent in action.

The Transport Minister was easy and lucid in his style. He was entirely without oratorical pretense. Yet he showed a formidable gift of effective phrase. His manner on the surface was one of moderation and complete reasonableness. But it cloaked an inflexibility of steel. After hours of being pushed and prodded by opposition speakers, he hadn't budged an inch from his original position. And the oppositioners had given up trying to move him.

All the foregoing are typical St. Laurent qualities. The Prime Minister never uses force when persuasion will serve the purpose better. He prefers homely, understandable language to flights of oratory, which actually don't come easily to him and sound artificial when he attempts them. In his handling of the Opposition he appears to be always careful to recognize their constitutional rights. Yet he never gives away anything of actual value to the government.

The Marler-St. Laurent comparison could be pressed further than the similarity of House of Commons performance. Like the Prime Minister, the Minister of Transport left a large and lucrative legal practice to heed the call to public service. And like Mr. St. Laurent, he is dedicating himself unreservedly to his new field. Only a week ago he signified the permanence of his political intentions by buying himself a $90,000 home in the posh Rockcliffe area.

It's apparent that Mr. Marler intends to stay in these parts. And it's apparent that he has very [illegible] able talents to offer [illegible] which the Liberal party [illegible] for those talents in the [illegible] ahead is an interesting [illegible] speculation.

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