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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

● Beveridge Again

I HAD the chance to watch Lord Beveridge at close range at the opening of the sixth annual meeting of the World Movement For World Federal Government.

The venerable social scientist holds his years well. He looks no older than he did when I saw him in action at a great public meeting just three years ago.

His mind is crystal clear despite his years. He sets forth with simplicity and lucidity the arguments for world law and order—just as he did some 30 or 40 years ago on behalf of what became known as "the welfare state."

The Beveridge line of argument is, of course, well known to the people who have assembled here from many countries of the world. There are some significant newcomers. There is a full blown cabinet minister from the Gold Coast—handsome and brown and highly cultured. He has a name that is hard to pronounce and impossible to spell. But he speaks with ease and point.

There is a quartet from Vietnam—two married couples, with the men smiling and alert and the women as tiny and delicate looking as beautiful China tea cups.

I HAD the honor to attend the second session of this same body. That took place in Rome some four years ago. That was the time when His Holiness the Pope astounded and delighted our struggling little body by inviting 40 of our number to the Vatican, where he gave his blessing and strongly worded support to this movement for a world parliament, able to make real world law, binding on all men and nations.

A good deal of water had flowed under the bridge since then and the human race is a lot closer to that annihilating fission-bomb war. I do not think that any honest observer could say that the human race is any closer to world peace, under law, than it was in 1950.

Yet more and more people are getting to understand the reasoning behind the saying "One World or None?" According to social scientists like Lord Beveridge, we are in a simple race against time. Either the UN will have to be transformed into a body capable of making real law, or else calamity and even annihilation are certainties.

LORD BEVERIDGE advocates a world set-up which every nation would be able to live its own life in its own way, within its own borders. He shows that patriotism is a good and a necessary thing.

But what the nations have to surrender—what must be taken away from all nations is "the right to do wrong"—the "right" to invade their neighbors.

He believes that the acid test of the peace keeping world parliament of the future will be its ability to embrace disarmament on all nations.

As I listened to him answering the sharp questions of the press, I thought to myself that even a great social scientist like Lord Beveridge lacks the wonderful gift of expression that one sees in the Holy Bible. For in that ancient book it is clearly set forth that the day will come when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Incidentally, the great Japanese Christian leader Kagawa has just accepted the vice-presidency of this world body.

The actual working head is Miss Monica Wingate—sister of the famous late Brigadier Orde Wingate of "Chindit" fame. She is the headmistress of a girls' school here in England—and no general ever ran an army with more skill and resolution than this lady uses to guide the destiny of her charges.



DINING PLEASURE in SPARKLING NEW SURROUNDINGS.

Commodore Cafe

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Wonder to what extent the articles believed essential in absorbing what the school teachers say, may be found. There must be at least some score, and costing anywhere from two bits to several dollars each. There used to be a time when a fellow was obliged to get along with a slate, a few pencils, perhaps a sponge, a bit of chalk and several inexpensive books. This much could be sure—there was never the spectacular window displays you can't help beholding today.

One notices any number of persons struggling along, with arms full of parcels. But cars appear to have fewer. And probably it's so.

Halifax was a happy sort of town Friday when the Duchess of Kent and daughter had got that far in exploring the Maritimes. It seems the weather was calm and mellow, champagne excellent and gifts of roses. Whoever had the job of handling the publicity end of the show, evidently knew what to leave out.

THEY STAYED

Most of us know the story of Kurt Meyer, the German General Canada almost shot. At any rate he was sentenced, but was freed today. But there's more than one story from Normandy. It's about many Canadians who did not go free.

Honest confession is good for the soul—but bad for the reputation.

HOTEL TIMES

At one resort in Canada this summer, there were 371 on the staff, and one night there were only 11 paying guests in the house. On other occasions there have been around 50 or 60 at what is considered the height of the season. That isn't good business. No hotel can hope to pay on that slim a guest list.

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Theory Doesn't Cover This

THE Trades and Labor Congress wants immigration programs to be "planned in relation to national development requirements." They seem to think this could be done by handling immigration through the Department of Labor.

This may sound fine in theory—you admit people with skills that are immediately needed, keep at those for whom there don't appear to be jobs. But how, in practice, can anyone tell what effect a given immigrant is going to have on the "national development" of Canada?

Consider the case of J. J. Klassen, president of Monarch Machinery Co. of Winnipeg. He came to his country in 1923, after his father had been killed in the Russian revolution and his eldest brother went to Siberia. He spoke no English and had no skills and began by working on farms. In 1935 he founded the Monarch Machinery Company, which now provides jobs for 130 men.

How could anyone have told, in 1923, what John Klassen would contribute to the national development of Canada? An immigrant is more than a pair of hands with a set of skills—he's a human being, with ideals and ambitions. There's no way to tell where those ideas will lead him—or us.

—The Financial Post

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

One of the questions which isn't wholly of academic interest in the Capital these days is which political party will gain on a switch in the railway and port votes if they should cease to favor the Liberal Party?

Will the swing, which could be decided as early as this autumn's by-elections, be to Hon. George Drew and the PCs? Or will it be to the Socialist CCF's?

Whichever happens—if, indeed, either happens—the result could be so decisive as to change the present appearance of Canadian politics almost beyond recognition.

The government has been watching the situation closely from motives of anxiety which are easily understandable. The news, from last week's labor meeting in Regina wasn't too reassuring. The reports reaching Parliament Hill via the political grapevine hinted that not only was railway labor unhappy over the pressure which the government had exerted in its recent dispute, but that workers generally were up in arms over the threat of compulsory arbitration in other fields than transportation.

An early reaction of this nature isn't too surprising to the government. But what it is counting upon in the long run is labor's sober second thoughts on the subject. Despite the heavy majority by which the strike was carried amongst the railway workers, the feeling in the cabinet is that railway labor as a whole shared the relief felt by the public generally when the government took its stand against any transportation stoppage.

CCF leader M. J. Coldwell was in the Capital during the railway labor crisis. He purposely refrained from leaving on a combined holiday-leisure tour in which he was scheduled to go until the strike threat was over. But although he watched with close interest from Parliament Hill office, he refrained from any intervention at any time in the dispute. Even when the government's pressure for

arbitration succeeded in ending the crisis, he made no public statement. That course leaves him free from responsibility for anything that was done and in a position to capitalize politically upon the government's policy if he thinks effective capital can be made of it.

PC Leader George Drew is even less committed than Mr. Coldwell. During the whole of the crisis he was holidaying in Europe. Not even by his silence on the sidelines here could he be argued as having acquiesced in government policy.

The issue will receive its first test in the autumn by-election. Until they are over, the government is keeping its fingers crossed. They are not too worried over the PCs. But they will rest a lot easier if the voting doesn't show an upsurge of CCF strength. That's what they are afraid of.

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OTTAWA, 7th SEPTEMBER, 1954

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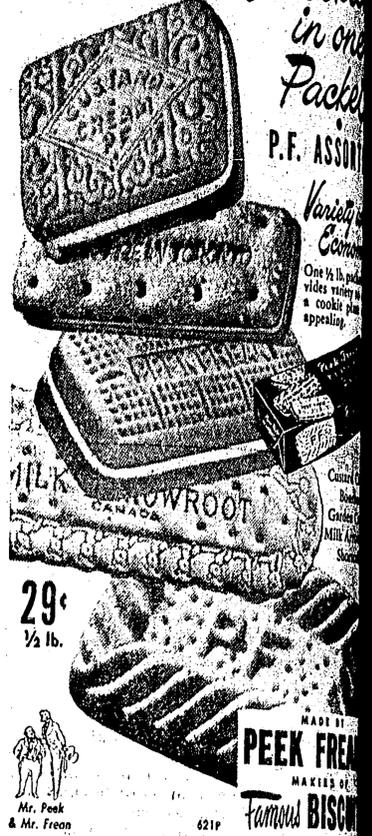
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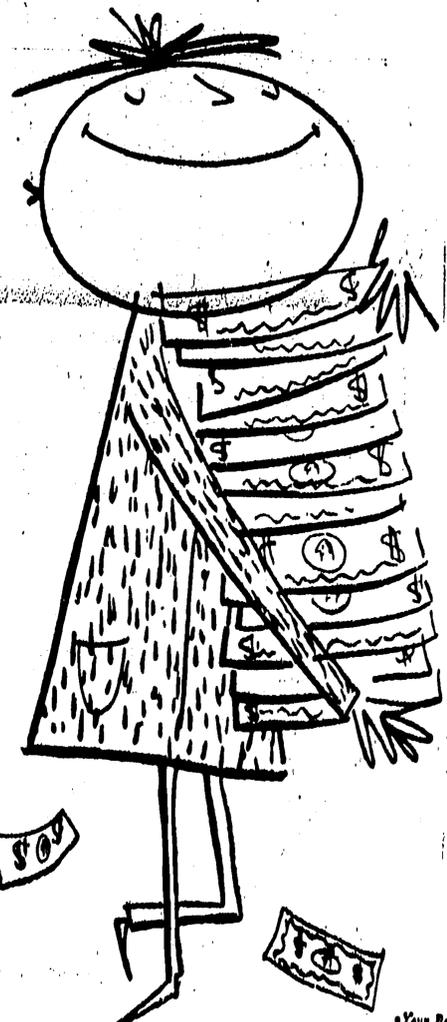
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