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Britain's Priceless Asset

ONE of the happiest events on the international scene in a long time is the visit of Queen Elizabeth to France. Her gesture of braving a cold wind so that the fashion-conscious Parisians could see her clothes probably did more for Anglo-French goodwill than any of her career diplomats could have accomplished. By the same token, the enthusiastic reception that she and her husband are receiving must warm the hearts of her subjects at home.

The success of the visit is another reminder of the priceless asset that Britain has in its monarchy. For weeks now, disturbing news has been emanating from the U.K. Strikes, political upset, trade problems and difficulties in foreign affairs have tended to create the impression that by degrees the country is going under. On top of this, we hear reports that British emigrants are being described by displeased fellow countrymen as "rats leaving a sinking ship."

But with the appearance of the Queen in full public view, the bad news suddenly looks less critical. The world is reminded that Britain has endured times far worse and that, despite all forebodings, has remained a real and vital power. In fact, those who are ready to count Britain out, now have cause to look on with a touch of envy. Only a country rich in character, history and culture could produce such a Queen. These qualities, even more than material resources, are the requisites of a great nation.

As the world can see, Britain still has them.

Let Stowaway Stay

JUSTICE and humanity have won at least a temporary victory by the ruling of a British Columbia jurist that the deportation order against stowaway Christian George Hanna is invalid. The Department of Immigration, however, may try to get him kicked out of the country by another process.

In all decency this man should be permitted to remain. He is a man without a country, his origins uncertain. He had been floating around on a Norwegian freighter for 15 months, trying to find a nation which would accept him.

Canada properly is welcoming thousands of Hungarians, exiles from their own country. This man is an exile, in effect, from most countries as they won't have him. It is a curious attitude to refuse a haven to a man who has nowhere else to go; he is in most need of one.

—Windsor Star.

50,000 Fishermen Eligible For Unemployment Insurance

Under the new unemployment insurance regulations, effective April 1, 1957, those employed in the fishing industry become eligible for the protection afforded by unemployment insurance. It is estimated that about 50,000 fishermen are affected. Fishermen begin paying contributions into the unemployment insurance fund on April 1, 1957 and the first seasonal period during which benefits will be paid begins on January 1, 1958. For purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Act, the term "fishing" includes the gathering of sea products such as Irish moss and shellfish, as well as the catching of fish.

Any fisherman may decline to be insured if he is not employed in fishing for more than 20 weeks in a calendar year and if he does not work extensively in other insurable employment. He elects out of insurance by lodging with his employer a Declaration of Inconsiderable Employment, form UIC 587A. This form can be obtained from the employer concerned.

A fisherman is not insurable for any week in which his net earnings from fishing are less than $9.

One of the difficulties encountered in applying unemployment insurance to fishermen was that of deciding who should pay contributions on behalf of the insured person. In industry, there is little difficulty, since the employer of the worker is clearly defined. But in the fishing industry it was not so easy to designate someone as an employer for the purpose of paying the fisherman's unemployment insurance contributions.

The general rule is that the person who first buys the catch makes the contributions for all the fishermen who will get earnings from this catch. He has this responsibility whether he buys the catch himself or through a representative. When he is thus regarded as an employer, the buyer makes contributions for all members of the crew. This includes the skipper or head fisherman, even in cases where the skipper is the real employer of the other members of the crew.

If a Canadian fisherman himself takes a catch to a buyer with no place of business in Canada, the buyer cannot be the employer. In such a case, the contributions will be paid by the actual employer if the crew works for wages; if not, then that operation is not insurable.

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As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

Murder by Slander

THE tragic death of Herbert Norman, Canada's brilliant ambassador to Egypt, may not have been in vain if it helps to destroy one of the most foul evil of all time—the process of "character assassination", this has already killed or spiritually maimed a whole host of victims.

"Murder by slander" was the most apt headline description of what happened to this fine public man.

Not all the cruel cases end in such hideously spectacular tragedy, in full view of horrified mankind. But almost all leave behind them scarred souls or poisoned lives, forever damaged by a cruel process which strikes at the very roots of human decency, and civilization based on fair play.

WHAT is character assassination?

It is the process of destroying the good name of a man or woman by the calculated abuse of our parliamentary system, and especially by abuse of the

Herbert Norman

information compiled, for reasons of national security, by the national police.

Under the parliamentary system, any Congressman, Senator or MP can make statements on the floor of the House, or in any committee duly set up, which are "privileged". It is right and necessary that this should be so.

But, here is where the abuse comes in. MP, Senator, Congressman may stand up in his place and say that MR. X is a Communist, a Fascist, a sexual pervert, a whoremonger, a thief, a liar, a cheat, a bigamist, a polygamist—or indeed accuse anybody of anything under the sun.

If the MP or Congressman, or any public official or witness appearing before a duly authorized parliamentary body makes such a defamatory charge inside parliament, he cannot be made to answer for it in the courts of the land. In other words, he can say things inside Parliament for which he would be instantly arrested if he said them outside.

Moreover, any newspaper, book publisher, or radio station operator may repeat the charge made inside parliament, also without any fear of being hailed before court, to answer for slander or libel.

So we see this hideous spectacle in the United States. For years past, unscrupulous men like Senator McCarthy have been destroying the reputations of public people, without fear of retribution, because they knew they were protected by their "Parliamentary immunity." But the most appalling extension of their vile campaign was in the calculated release of what were supposed to be notes compiled by secret police organizations. The character assasins did not even take the responsibility of making their own charges. They gave world-wide publicity to accusations, true or false but which never would have been allowed for one moment, in any court of law based on the principles of Anglo-Saxon justice. Yet the accused never had the chance to clear themselves in court.

IT TOOK hundreds of years to build up the safeguards that when charges of wrong-doing were to be made against any alleged law-breaker, those charges had to be plainly spelled out and that fair notice of the accusations had to be given to the accused, who had to be tried in court.

The tragic truth is that the three big wars of this century—the Kaiser's war—Hitler's war—and, worst of all, the cold war—sis of the security of the individual before the law.

Who robs a man of his good name, robs some men of something that is more precious than wealth, or social security, or in some cases, than life itself.

That is the stark truth which democracy must face in its own interests, if it is to survive.

Wood Appointed Freight Agent

Special to The Daily News

WINNIPEG — Cyril A. Wood has been appointed general freight agent (rates) for Canadian National Railways' western region. Mr. Wood succeeds the late G. N. McMillan.

Other freight traffic department promotions also announced are: Mathew A. Peebles and Harry G. Wortman, assistant general freight agents (rates); Glen F. Nicol, chief of Tariff bureau; and Fred A. Hill, chief of divisions bureau. All will have jurisdiction over the CNR's western region, with headquarters at Winnipeg.

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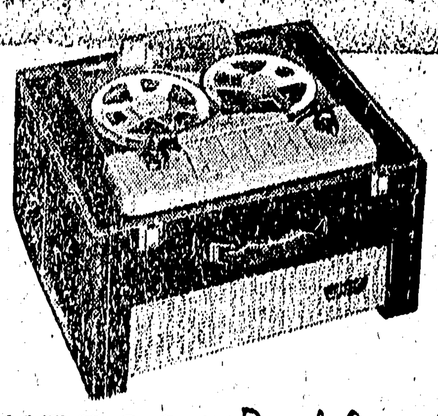

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MP Queries Adams Trial Prosecution

LONDON (AP)— The prosecution's conduct of the trial of Dr. John Bodkin Adams, Eastbourne physician who was acquitted Tuesday of a murder charge, may be raised in the House of Commons.

Labor member George Wigg has tabled a question asking the government to set up an impartial inquiry into the preparation, organization and conduct of the prosecution's case—"excepting the proceedings in court."

His question is addressed to the attorney-general, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, who led the prosecution's case against the 58-year-old physician.

Dr. Adams was found not guilty of murdering his wealthy patient, 81-year-old Mrs. Edith Morrell.

NO ELABORATION

Wigg did not elaborate on what prompted his demand for an investigation into the pre-trial aspects of the case. During the trial defence counsel criticized the methods used by Scotland Yard's ace detective, Herbert (The Count) Hannam.

The judge defended the famed sleuth, however, in his charge to the jury, and praised him for carrying out his duties in the highest manner.

Hannam arrested Dr. Adams last December after months of investigating scores of wills in Eastbourne, where Adams had a prosperous practice in that haven for wealthy retired families.

Gets Award

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Tuesday received the 20th anniversary Freedom Award from the United Auto Workers as the "outsanding symbol of human freedom and humany decency." The award was also presented to Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam.

Hatless Churchgoers

ENFIELD, England (AP) — The "prevailing fashion" for young women to go to church hatless is attacked by Rev. Gordon Girling, vicar of St. George's church, in his parish magazine. Urging reverence, he says however that "a scarf over the head will suffice."

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Since the present session is scheduled to end in dissolution not later than this Friday evening, 73-year-old veteran Angus MacInnis has only a few hours left in which to make a final appearance in the Parliament which he has served faithfully for more than a quarter of a century.

The CCF Elder statesman has been in poor health which has confined him to his home in Vancouver. But recently he wrote some of his colleagues here informing them of his hope to be able to be present in the House, even if briefly, before prorogation and dissolution. MP's of all parties are hoping without reservation that he may be able to make it.

Socialist MacInnis first entered Parliament in 1930. It would be a mistake to say that he was recognized at the time as a potentially unique force in the Chamber. CCF-ers in those days were looked upon by a great many people as not radically different from Communists. Angus MacInnis shared the disrepute. His outstanding ability only served to make him appear more dangerous in the eyes of conventional old-line party circles.

But as the depression wore on, making the lavish prosperity of the pre-1929 days seem in retrospect an unreal dream, — and emphasizing that Socialism had a genuine mission to discharge —public opinion of the CCF movement modified. The audience for its doctrines of economic reform and evolutionary social change widened. Conservative Prime Minister R. B. Bennett incorporated some of its policies in his reform program prior to the 1935 election. Liberal Prime Minister Mackenzie King continued to appropriate others right up to the time of his retirement. And during all this process, which ended up with the CCF having virtually all their political clothes pilfered by one or other of the old-line parties, Angus MacInnis increased steadily in Parliamentary reputation, stature, and personal influence.

It wasn't only his clartiy of reasoning, his reliance upon basic common sense, and his disdain of all pretence that won him recognition. It was rather that the entire Commons Chamber gradually came to realize that in MacInnis they were in the presence of that rare individual—a politician who intellectually is completely honest. Angus MacInnis never tried nor ever wanted to fool anybody with tricks of rhetoric. Least of all did he ever want to fool himself. His was the sincerity that had no crack in its armor.

And so, subtly but inevitably, he became established to a considerable degree as the conscience of Parliament. MP's listened to him because they came to know him as the voice of truth. Even if they didn't follow him or agree with him, they respected him. And they know that with his retirement they won't soon see his like again.

That's why they are pulling for him to realize his hope of just one more visit to the House

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