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Cost of Eden's Illness

ONE of the most unfortunate aspects of Sir Anthony Eden's illness is that evidently he will be hard pressed to pay for his hospitalization. According to reports, a friend in England is endeavoring to raise the money for him since Sir Anthony is now merely a private citizen—and an unemployed one, at that.

While British taxpayers already carry enough of a load without being called upon to support their retired political leaders, it is a tragedy that Sir Anthony at such a critical time should be severed so abruptly from official help. In a manner that is distinctly British, he devoted his life to politics. Apart from service in World War I, he never knew any other kind of existence.

For his career as a public servant, he is now reaping a bitter harvest. The ailment from which he is suffering was certainly aggravated, and possibly caused, by the pressure of his duties in office. After long years of responsibility as foreign affairs secretary, he inherited the prime ministry at a difficult period in Britain's post-war history. Somehow he never could turn it into a winning fight but his courage in trying was never under question. He showed the same resoluteness then as he did years before when he resigned from the Chamberlain cabinet in protest against the policy of appeasement.

In a broad sense, the whole Commonwealth is indebted to Sir Anthony. His work during the last war as right-hand man to Churchill was a contribution not only to the defence of Britain but to the larger cause of the Commonwealth. So concern for his illness and the uncertain future which now faces him cannot be limited to those who were responsible for putting him into office.

We do not doubt that somehow a tactful solution will be found. There may be a place for Sir Anthony in private business or possibly an administrative post can be found somewhere in the Commonwealth where the duties are not too onerous. A third alternative which so many retired political leaders have found lucrative would be in the publication of memoirs.

Yet the sad commentary remains that those who devote themselves to public life frequently must do so at the price of personal security. Sometimes it seems that a political career is only for the very rich or the very bold.

Patrons of Centre

THROUGH the years a valuable public service which does not receive its due recognition has been done by those companies and individuals who become patrons of the Civic Centre. Their donations of $50 or more make up an important reason why the Centre is able to continue its operation.

But it is a service that will not go without reward. Just so long as we have the Civic Centre, Prince Rupert will be that much more attractive to employees with families who reside here. In helping to counteract the complaint that northern communities are lacking in recreational facilities, the Centre has a big part in stabilizing our population and in enhancing the advantages of the city as a site for business and industry.

The patron's donation of $3,500 made this year by the Columbia Cellulose Company is an admirable and generous gesture towards ensuring that the Civic Centre will continue to play this part. It is to be hoped that this sense of responsibility for the successful operation of the Centre will be shared equally by business as a whole.

Alberta Iron Ore Project Depends on Development

VANCOUVER (CP)—G. R. Heffernan, managing director of Premier Steel Co. Ltd. of Edmonton, said Friday development of an iron ore find in Northwestern Alberta "will depend on industrial development which will make the market."

"The market is not ready yet," Mr. Heffernan said in a long-distance telephone interview to Vancouver. The company is reported to have discovered vast iron ore reserves near Hine's Creek, Alberta, near the B. C. border.

"We have held these leases, which are extensive, for nearly a year," Mr. Heffernan said. "At present we are going ahead doing prospecting and developing to find out what is there."

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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

MP's Inside Story

THE 22nd PARLIAMENT of Canada is now in its last moments.

The MP's are showing an unexpected spurt of speed, like our old family horse used to show, at the end of a hard day's driving, when he turned, at last, toward home.

There is always that spirit in evidence at the end of every session. But this year there is extra obvious eagerness to get away. The MP's of all parties want to get home, and at the job of putting their cases before the voters.

THIS SEEMS like a good time to tell a little bit of the inside story of an MP's job.

It is a hard job—but also a fascinating one.

I would say it is a mixture of a fine public service, and an intricate game.

There are long periods when the job is sheer boredom, and at such times you are likely to ask yourself, or your wife, why you were ever such a fool as to get mixed up in politics.

But then along comes something really important, useful—and at times exciting to the point of being thrilling. The pipeline debate was one example of this.

IN ONE WAY, being a member of parliament is like being in the army. Just as everybody in a regiment soon gets to know who are the good men, who are the not-so-good, and who are the downright no-goods, so in the House of Commons.

It does not make any difference to what party the MP belongs—or whether the MP is a he or a she. Everybody in the House soon gets to know who are the square-shooters, and also who are the slippery customers, the slackers, and so on.

I could cite several examples of MPs who are respected and liked by all parties. But two examples will serve.

The late Dr. Jack MacDougall and the late Sybil Bennett were both MPs who were admired in every corner of the House. Yet they were as different as night from day.

Jack was a real old fashioned Liberal — a Grit through and through. A fun-loving boisterous extrovert who knew and called everybody in the vast building by their first names.

Miss Bennett was a true-blue Tory of the old genteel school. She hardly ever said a word in the House, in fact I remember hearing her only twice. But she looked like such a nice lady sitting there across from us that we were all glad to see her come in. Perhaps that sentiment sprang partly from the fact that a good many of us knew that Miss Bennett was suffering from a malignant ailment, of a type for which there is no known cure. Yet till the very last time she came in the House her presence radiated a graciousness, perceptible to all.

THE REAL WORK of the House of Commons is done by fewer than half the members. As a rough guess I would say that about forty per cent carry the load for the rest.

About another 40 per cent attend fairly faithfully to their duties. The remaining 20 per cent are little better than shirkers and slackers. Moreover, these drones afflict all political parties alike. But in the big parties it is easier to get away with it.

THERE IS ALWAYS public surprise when a whole batch of MP's drop out at election times—that is, refuse to run again.

Quite a few of our brightest younger men have dropped out this time. The reason, of course, is quite simple. No young lawyer can make nearly as much money as an MP as he can make if he stays home and minds his own, and his client's business. Besides, as a career, politics is a very risky business, especially for the families of younger men.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Consciously or unconsciously the local Russians demonstrated a new approach to diplomacy that could very usefully supplant cold war methods in the vodka-and-caviar wing - ding which was the official housewarming of their new half-million dollar Embassy here.

Instead of the conventional sort of diplomatic party over which formal protocol spreads its chill hand, the Soviet hosts saged a warm and highly intimate type of gathering. There was a minimum of bowing stiffly from the waist and exchanging carefully correct but obviously frozen smiles. The usual spectacle of bored groups exchanging sophisticated conversation on topics remote from reality was refreshingly absent. Instead, there was an informality and a warmth to the function which almost amounted at times to a real heartiness.

The new Soviet Embassy is a big place. As a result, there was plenty of room for the 600 invited guests. Instead of being jam-packed, they were simply close enough to one another to create a chummy sort of atmosphere. Their hosts allowed them a preliminary interval to warm up on the bountiful supplies of caviar, lobster, Russian shrimp, fish in aspic, fresh strawberries in sour cream, and other delicacies with which the supper tables were loaded. For the thirsty vodka, together with a vast assortment of lesser liquors, was provided. For wine connoisseurs there was a wonderful sparkling burgundy—poured a little disconcertingly into highball glasses—from the Caucusus.

Up to this point the gathering could have been any typical diplomatic party in almost any one of the Capital's embassies. The only possible difference was the lavishness of the hospitality. But about the time that the guests were beginning to discover that there was such a thing as enough caviar and that vodka had other than just thirst-quenching properties a new note was introduced. The doors of the Embassy's miniature theatre were thrown open and an easy-mannered Soviet emcee announced that if everyone would crowd in it was proposed to give them some entertainment drawn from the talent available amongst the Embassy staff.

The following hour-and-a-half, with thoughtful intermissions for a return to the refreshment tables, witnessed a variety program which, while it might have lacked the superb finish of a Bolshoi Theatre performance, was colorful, tuneful, and thoroughly entertaining. There was a well trained Embassy chorus that sang not only Russian songs, but an Italian song as well. There was an orchestra that played the kind of Russian and gypsy music you hear in a Paris cafe. And there were pretty Embassy wives who danced in Russian peasant costume.

It was a different sort of diplomatic party from the kind to which this Capital is accustomed. What is more, it was a tremendous success. Those who went out of protocol prepared to suffer boredom were most agreeably surprised. They admit they would like to see some of the other embassies take a leaf out of the Soviet entertainment book.

SAVE GASOLINE

HESTEN, Eng. (CP)— Gasoline rationing threatens to cut the number of decorated vehicles in the Whit - Monday procession here June 10. As a result motor-scooter and roller-skating clubs have been invited to compete for various trophies.

WELLS IN THOUSANDS

The American oil business comprises 42,000 companies employing 1,600,000 people and working 500,000 wells within the

TALKING OVER PLANS for Forest Products Safety Week which will be held May 6 to 11 are John T. Atkinson, International Woodworkers of America safety director and vice-chairman of the Joint Forest Products Safety committee, Ray Williston, B. C. minister of lands and forests, and Anthony F. Douglas, assistant manager of the B.C. Loggers association and chairman of the Joint Safety committee. They are shown here holding the No-Accident flag which will be raised on the opening day of Safety Week over all camps and mills in the forest products industry. If an accident occurs, the flag will be lowered. The joint labor, government and management group urges all of the 60,000 workers in the forest products industry in B.C. to keep the flags flying and get behind the drive to combat accidents not only during Safety Week but throughout the year.

COUP BRINGS CRISIS

Nasser Facing Fight To Keep Leadership

By WILTON WYNN

CAIRO (AP)—President Nasser of Egypt faces the fight of his political life to retain leadership of the Arab world following King Hussein's coup in Jordan.

Hussein's overthrow of pro-Egyptian elements represents a major break in the so-called "Free Arab" front—a grouping of states which oppose the Baghdad Pact and formal Arab ties with the West. The group is composed of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Winning Jordan over to this clique had been one of Nasser's victories over the West of the last two years.

He achieved this through the ouster of Gen. Sir John Bagot Glubb, British founder of the Arab Legion, and the termination of the British-Jordan Treaty.

Nasser reached his peak of influence in Jordan last October when a heavily pro-Egyptian Parliament was elected and the armies of the Arab group were placed under Egyptian command for any joint operations that might arise.

Nasser's leadership was challenged this year by President Eisenhower's Middle East doctrine. Hussein initially welcomed the doctrine, but his pro-Egyptian prime minister, Suleiman Nabulsi, attacked it.

A showdown finaly came and at the moment Hussein has achieved the upper hand through use of force. If Hussein succeeds in his coup, Nasser will be left with only Syria and Iemen, the latter a negligible factor, as allies on whom he can depend completely.

IMPORTANT ROUND

Those who know Nasser expect him to launch a swift counter-attack. If he loses this round, he may well be finished as a potent international force.

Arraigned against Nasser in Jordan are bulk of the army command, the threat of Iraqi forces poised on Jordan's eastern frontier, U.S. influence and the financial weight of King Saud of Saudi Arabia.

Nasser has strong weapons of his own, however. He still is the greatest Arab hero to more than 1,000,000 Palestinians who form the majority of Jordan's public.

Reports say pro-Egyptian mobs already are roaming the streets of Ramallah and Nablus on the Jordan River's west bank, protesting Nabulsi's ouster.

Inside Jordan itself, Nasser has the support of powerful civilian politicians and an unknown number of army officers.

Sir Anthony Set To Quit Hospital In Three Weeks

LONDON (AP)—Sir Horace Evans, Sir Anthony Eden's personal physician, said today doctors attending the former prime minister in Boston hope Eden "will be fit to leave hospital in three weeks."

Eden Saturday underwent his fourth operation in as many years to remove bile duct obstructions causing fever attacks. Evans, who flew to the United States to observe the operation, returned today. He also is physician to the Royal Family.

"When I left him, Sir Anthony was in good heart," Evans said.

Meanwhile the Daily Telegraph says the Conservative party may raise a fund to help Sir Anthony Eden meet the cost of his present illness.

The newspaper estimates the total cost to the former prime minister, including air passage from New Zealand to Boston, will exceed £3,000.

EDITOR DIES

MEAFORD, Ont. (CP)—A. Stanley Thurston, former editor and publisher of several Ontario weeklies and an expert on Canadian dairy farming, died Sunday at the age of 66.

Easter Rites Planned By Shriners

VANCOUVER— Rev. Robert B. Cunningham of St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in Vancouver will deliver the Easter message at the annual non-denominational Easter Sunrise service at the grandstand at Exhibition park, Vancouver.

The service, prepared jointly by the Gizeh Shrine Temple and the Pacific National Exhibition, will commence at 7:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 21.

The bands and banners, the colorful marching of the uniformed units and the pageantry associated with the Shrine will combine with the splendid background of our scenic mountains to create just the right atmosphere of rejoicing appropriate to the great festival of Easter and to Rev. Cunningham's address "Cristus Victor."

The covered grandstand provides excellent accommodation in all weather, for those attending the public outdoor service.

The early morning service will conclude in plenty of time for those wishing to attend services at their own particular churches later that morning to do so.

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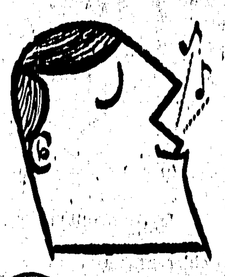

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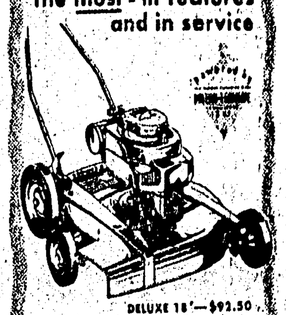

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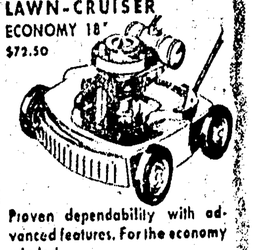

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