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Close Look at Housing Needed

IN A daring move City Council recently condemned and ordered the demolition of a cabin in the Cow Bay area. This must make three sub-standard buildings the city fathers have seen fit to remove from the landscape of Prince Rupert in as many years. On a basis of buildings per year the council is batting 1.000 but in the light of improving housing conditions in the city the mayor and aldermen are at least ten years behind the times. The most recent order came, as it usually does, from the Medical Health Officer. He doesn't always have such success. Nor does the Social Welfare branch whose workers see filth and unsanitary conditions caused by overcrowding that would shock the most hardened prober. They see it every day of the week. If all the houses, cabins, shacks, multiple dwellings that the Medical Health Officer and the Welfare branch know are not fit to live in, were condemned and demolished, at least 50 families, amounting to no less than 175 persons would be homeless. That situation gives City Council its stock answer: "If we do away with these places," (and Council knows they exist) "what will we do with the people?"

Having posed a question that the average person cannot answer, Council rests on its nine respective seats and breathes a collective sigh of relief that "that question is out of the way for awhile." Just how long "awhile" is expected to be, is not known but the time is coming when the city has to face up to its responsibilities and stop hoping that something will turn up to solve the problem. Nothing will turn up until council takes some action itself. City council blatantly goes along with the Chamber of Commerce and invites Ventures Ltd., to build a smelter here because of the ready-made facilities. Obviously it expects the company to promptly erect a housing subdivision for its employees. Obviously council expects every newcomer to the city to bring with him his own bag of gold dust, buy a piece of city property and build a home. Here's news for the mayor and aldermen if they haven't figured it out for themselves. It's not going to happen that way. It doesn't in other cities and it won't here. Every man wants to own his own home. Many want to build. But they have to have somewhere to live in the meantime.

It is time therefore that City Council took its head out of the sand and faced up to the facts of life. If it takes a federal government proposition, with the city paying its share, then that's what it takes. The time has come for Council to take a close look at its housing situation and this time (it took a peek 18 months ago) do something about it.

— GEMS OF THOUGHT —

"Know thyself" means this, that you get acquainted with what you know, and what you can do. —Menander.

30-BELOW ZERO — Cpl. Joseph Bodard of Quebec City, his woollen hood covered with ice, bucks 30-below-temperatures and a 35-mile-an-hour wind on the frozen tundra north of Fort Churchill, Manitoba. He is a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment on a two-week Arctic indoctrination course. Here he pushes a 250-pound toboggan while carrying a 50-pound pack. (CP Photo from National Defence).

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As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

• Which Way Britain

THE SHAKE-UP in the British government gives new importance to an article by Sir Beverley Baxter who recently wrote in Maclean's magazine:

"Because of America's flabbiness of purpose there will be a mighty rejuvenation of Western Europe with the economic and military unity of Great Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux countries."

The noted Conservative MP and publicist went on to say that Britain would henceforth regard "America as a valued friend, but not an ally."

He even lifted a corner of the lid on the secret British Conservative party caucas and let it be known that it was a speech by the subsequently chosen Prime Minister Harold Macmillan that constituted Britain's "declaration of independence" from U.S. overlordship.

✣ ✣ ✣

IT IS worth noting that Mr. Macmillan's appointment as Prime Minister has drawn forth from President Eisenhower warm expressions of American friendship which were notably lacking in the last months of the Eden regime.

It almost seems that the American leaders have suddenly reawakened to the fact that they need the support of Britain and the British Commonwealth in world affairs quite as much as Britain and the Commonwealth need the support of the U.S.A.

But it does seem as if all the recent events in Europe and the Middle East have brought Britain to a great crossroad in history.

✣ ✣ ✣

IT IS a fact that Harold Macmillan was one of the strongest advocates of a United Europe in the years immediately following the Hitler war. That does not necessarily mean that he will drive through the idea, now that he is actually in office.

During the darkest days of the second world war Churchill made his historic offer of out-and-out union between Britain and France. That offer was only rejected in the French cabinet by a margin of two or three votes. But as we all know, it never was renewed when the Hitler war was won.

Contrary to what some cynics claim, it is not because statesmen are all double-dealers, that they do not always carry out in office the things they have advocated while out of office—or as in the case of Churchill's offer to France, while a different set of facts apply.

The real reason is that while actually in power a statesman must face a whole set of actual responsibilities which do not bother him at all while all he has to do is talk, and not act.

✣ ✣ ✣

COULD Britain join a really united Western Europe without weakening the ties which have held the British Commonwealth together?

My guess is yes she could.

We have seen both in war and peace that the Commonwealth is not, and cannot be, an exclusive or even self-sufficient organization. We found in the second world war that we could not even survive without the help of the United States. Even Australia and New Zealand, which are the dominions most fervently attached to the Motherland, found that they required the actual help of the U.S.A. to survive. They later formalized that wartime alliance.

But any move which would enable Britain and France to diminish their dependence on the U.S.A. is good, if for no other reason that it helps to restore the balance of power as between the allied partners themselves.

Anything that makes Britain stronger also helps Canada.

OTTAWA DIARY

By James R. Nelson

The House of Commons is coming, slowly and tortuously, to the end of the current Throne Speech Debate and nobody will be more happy to hear the division bells ring to call the final vote than those dedicated souls who must remain in the Commons Chamber, on the floor or in the galleries, hour after hour to hear the drone. The plain point of fact is that this has been the dullest debate in living memory.

The Throne Speech Debate, which under the new rules adopted by the House a couple of years ago, can only last 10 days, provides members of Parliament with an opportunity to range over as many topic in one speech as they like, without worrying about the rule of relevant debate. For the members themselves, and for the public, they at least can get up and leave.

And they have been doing just that. For a solid hour during one night sitting of the Commons this week, there were never more than 40 members at their desks on the floor, and so far as we could see in the murkiness of the public galleries—apart from the usual quota of wives, ministers' secretaries, and Hansard typists who have to transcribe the official reporters' notes — there was never more than a half-dozen strangers.

And yet, this is the Session which is supposed to produce the fireworks in preparation for an Election. All that Election Fever seems to have done so far is to prompt a few back-benchers who haven't made more than three or four speeches since the last election to begin thinking they should say 'something." And so the debate has ranged from the "beauties of the Rideau River," as one topic, to "Life on the Prairies," and a [illegible] which have established them in My Old County Town.

At breakfast the other morning in the Parliamentary restaurant, a Northern Ontario Liberal MP was crying into his bacon and eggs about the difficulty of stirring up any interest in politics. The conclusion he arrived at—though he would never want his name attached to this thought — is that the people are too well-off.

Twenty-five years ago when he was a young politician in his home town, a political rally would draw 500 easily, with many of them travelling miles through great difficulty to be present. And, he said, it wasn't unusual for such a meeting to run on until three in the morning.

This fall, he organized just such a meeting again. How many turned up? Three. His organizers.

MR. JUSTICE H. Alan Maclean, deputy attorney-general of British Columbia, has been appointed a justice of the B.C. Supreme Court. He succeeds Mr. Justice H. S. Wood who retired recently. (CP Photo).

NOT FROM NORTH

The original Santa Claus, the 4th-century Bishop of St. Nicholas, had his home in southern Turkey.

REGULATIONS — LOAD LIMIT
COPPER RIVER SUSPENSION BRIDGE,
SKEENA WEST DISTRICT

The undersigned, being a person authorized by the Minister of Highways, in writing, to exercise the powers vested in the said Minister in Part IV of the "Highway Act," hereby makes the following regulation pursuant to Section No. 62 of the "Highway Act," effective from 12:01 A.M. Wednesday, January 16, 1957, until further notice.

No person shall operate any vehicle having a maximum gross weight in excess of twelve tons (24,000 lbs.) over the Copper River Suspension Bridge, six miles east of Terrace on Highway No. 102 Terrace-Pacific, part of the Northern Trans-Provincial Highway No. 16.

Dated at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, this 15th day of January, 1957.

H. J. KELSALL,
District Engineer.
(17)

THE HUSTLE, BUSTLE and impressive structures of London's famed Fleet Street, "The Street of Ink," are seen here in a double portion. The striking effect was captured by the camera lens through the plate-glass window of a newly erected building. Fleet Street is the centre of Britain's publishing industry.

LETTERBOX

RE: HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

The Editor,
The Daily News,

With the arrival in our country and city of Hungarian refugees to whom we are supposed to open our hearts, homes and particularly our pocket-books, the time has come for some serious thought on the subject.

We are revering and holding in awe these well publicized "heroes" who have deserted their own country, and in many cases their wives and children at a time when, if their dependents and indeed Hungary itself is to survive at all, they are needed more than ever before. Will people like this be creditable citizens? Our own present population in Prince Rupert has many unemployed in their number (refer recent U.I.C. report). The refugees are forced through the regular channels minus all the usual red-tape and fairly presented a well-paying position due to their superior education, made possible by their being far above the lower classes, which we are led to believe make up the nucleus of these newcomers. Those Hungarians who really need our help are forced by their finances to remain in their strife-torn country.

Our country is large and wealthy and immigrants always enrich such a country as Canada, but refugees are a different problem entirely. Many regularly established immigrants profess real hatred for these newly-made "non"-Communists. How can we reconcile these peoples if we show such marked favoritism toward a group of professional agitators? Do we intend, through our softness to allow them to begin their doubtful heroics on this side of the Atlantic?

If we are to welcome the Hungarians, we will have to balance the scale by welcoming the equally heroic Greeks, Cyprlots, Egyptians and Arabs, who are gallantly defending their shores against similarly aggressive action by Britain and France. However the Russian bloc will probably attend to that half of the problem, forcing ever wider breach between East and West for which we are at least half to blame.

When our own economy is so overflowing that our present population is fully employed, then carefully screened refugees complete with their families, would be sincerely welcome.

AN IMMIGRANT'S SON.
Prince Rupert.

WHY INDIAN ACT?

The Editor,
The Daily News,

I recently saw a newsreel that showed New Canadians getting their citizenship. It was attended by all the dignitaries of the country. Yet they are still wondering what to do with the Canadian Indians.

The Canadian Government is still fumbling around with the Indian Act. Why the Indian Act? Why not the English Act? Scottish Act, Irish Act, etc.? Why should we have special set of laws for one race of people in a so-called "democratic country?"

Canada is a large country and we certainly can stand a larger population, but it has got to be properly organized.

Work, for all Canadians want to work, then bring in New Canadians that can make good citizens.

We are so worried about Communists sneaking into the country that we do not notice how many Fascists and Nazis are coming into the country. In fact one former Hitler youth told us that we only beat Germany because they had to fight the whole world.

I have met many good New Canadians in logging camps and construction camps, but I believe we are letting in too many that still think that their "Fatherland" should rule the world.

It is a good thing that Hitler and Mussolini are kaput, otherwise we would have given them citizenship before we gave it to the Canadian Indians.

I do not object to giving the New Canadians citizenships, but we must not forget the old Canadians who have fought so hard to help make this world a decent place to live in.

IVAN ADAMS,
Prince Rupert.

All Aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE

A man who robbed a bank in Victoria, B.C., was arrested in Seattle, chiefly because an airline official noticed that he paid a $5.50 cab fare without protest and looked nervous as he boarded the plane.

He pleaded guilty. In his place, however, I would have been tempted to call "Foul."

Whether boarding a plane, trying to cash a cheque or just crossing the street, I go around feeling that the roof is about to fall on my head any minute. I haven't robbed a bank, but I can never shake loose the conviction that trouble is just around the corner. Anyone who feels as nervous as I do must look it.

And I am not alone in this respect. Every day I meet people (innocent of any crime, to my knowledge) who move along with hunched shoulders and harassed, contorted faces, as though Dracula were flying beside them.

The bank robber, apparently, mopped his brow several times and seemed to be in a hurry to get in the plane. What was so unusual about that. Ninety per cent of us are in a hurry to get somewhere—to work, to lunch, to a show or to the grave.

Heaven knows why we are in such a rush, but we are. And in our haste we mop the brow, twist the lobe of the ear or light the wrong end of a cork-tipped cigarette.

Despite these signs of agitation, however, nobody arrests us. In a way, it seems a cruel trick of fate that a Trans-Canada Airlines man put the finger on a bandit for doing what a great many citizens do all the time.

Or was it something more? Is TCA hiring clairvoyant clerks now? If so, perhaps other business firms will enlist staff with second sight.

The prospect makes me even more nervous. It may be only a question of time before some alert hotel clerk or taxi driver accosts me and says: "Mortimore, I believe? Where's that stamped, addressed envelope you forgot to put in the mail, and then mislaid? What about all those milk bottles you failed to put out? Come along with me, lad, I'm making a citizen's arrest."

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MONSIGNOR Joseph Kiwanuka, (above), 57, Bishop of Masaka, Uganda, may soon be elected a Cardinal and thus become the first Negro to be admitted to Catholic hierarchy. Born to a poor farmer's family, the African prelate gave early in childhood, evidence of outstanding intelligence and was allowed for this reason to join a mission school. He now speaks English, French, Italian and Latin. He has travelled extensively in the United States and Canada.

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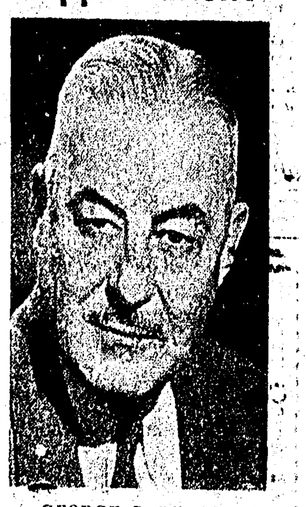

GEORGE S. DEACON

Appointment of Mr. George S. Deacon as General Manager of Canadian Canners (Western) Limited, Vancouver, B. C. is announced by G. G. Lister, President. Mr. George S. Deacon has held various positions with the company since 1035 in Victoria, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Mr. W. O. Lowrey is being transferred to Head Office of Canadian Canners Limited, Hamilton, Ontario.

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