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Vote In The Dark

INTERESTING comment on Canada's prime minister St. Laurent is made by the Victoria Daily Colonist. It warrants recalling when election time rolls around.

The oldest daily on the Pacific Coast points out that a characteristic of the prime minister is that he seems to have lost his savior-faire. Where once Mr. St. Laurent could parry comment and inquiry with aplomb, now he grows testy or angry when pressed into a corner. His former composure has deserted him.

"It is no disrespect," The Colonist states, "to suggest that age is catching up with him and he no longer commands the self-control that once was so marked in his parliamentary manner."

Mr. St. Laurent cannot be blamed if he has grown tired of the political scene. He reportedly was not keen initially on entering this realm and he has been the first minister of the Crown for the past eight years. This is an exacting office at any time and particularly so in days of international stress. His tenure of office, borne with a distinction that cannot be denied, has coincided with increased participation by Canada in complex and worrying matters of world importance.

"It is no secret that Mr. St. Laurent is about ready to step down, it being taken for granted in political circles that the next will be his last election. Another term of office would bring him near the octogenarian mark, and undoubtedly he deserves the private twilight of living that he has earned and which reports indicate he desires. He will lead his party at the expected June election and thereafter make way for a successor."

"A point worth noting about this, even though it is inevitable in an aging leader," the Colonist concludes, "is that the electorate will be asked to renew the mandate of a government which if successful at the polls would be headed shortly after by an unknown prime minister. Voters in a sense will thus be casting ballots in the dark, unaware of the individual who is to assume Mr. St. Laurent's mantle as head of the Liberal party."

Faulty Wiring Blamed

MORE than 6,000 fires a year, bringing damage of close to \$10,000,000 are caused by faulty electrical appliances and wiring says the All Canada Insurance Federation.

Careless installation and overloading are two common causes of fire and only proper wiring can eliminate the hazard.

The Federation recommends these rules to help prevent fires in the home.

- Only experts should be allowed to install wiring.
- Never overload circuits; be sure that circuits are heavy enough to carry peak loads.
- Never string wires under eaves, through doors, or over hooks or beams. Constant wear will remove insulation.
- Cords on lamps and appliances should be replaced when worn. They are seldom worth re-wiring.
- Laundry or clothing should never be strung over wires.
- Never use improper fuses or substitutes. Fuses are the safety valves of an electrical system and designed to cut off electricity when danger is present.
- Homemade extension and repairs are seldom reliable.
- Use only recognized makes of appliances and turn them off when not in use.



WIN YOUR NEW STAMPS In the post office department's outdoor recreation series will go on sale March 7. The five-cent stamps are blue in color and illustrate Canada's four major outdoor recreations—fishing, swimming, hunting and skiing.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Some Russian Facts

NOT long ago I was asked by the CBC to appear on a panel to discuss the progress of Russia in a TV and radio program for Citizens Forum.

When I arrived in Toronto for the rehearsal I was more amused than surprised to find an almost entirely new line up of participants. The men originally scheduled to appear had bowed out of the picture, for fear that their appearance on that program might result in unfavorable publicity for the business concerns they head.

Surely it is in the national interest for all Canadians to know the true facts about the achievements and the failures of the Soviet Union; and surely business men who have lately visited Russia in person should be allowed to give their evidence.

MY OWN recent visit to Russia confirmed my general conclusion about the Soviet system, as it has gradually crystallized over the past 30 or 40 years.

Under their overall system of planned production, they are making remarkable progress in industrialization. Their total output is now increasing at a much faster tempo than ours.

But the standard of living is far, far behind our own; and the key to the Soviet system is that

this standard of living is deliberately kept as low as is politically practicable in such a ruthlessly-governed state.

APART from the expert observations of recent Canadian visitors to Russia, the official figures tell their own story.

In 1956 the Soviet government claims to have produced 4,300,000 TV or radio receiving sets. Canada produced 1,220,104. In other words 16 million Canadians bought more than one quarter

of the number of sets that 200 million Soviet citizens acquired.

The figures for motor vehicle production are even more striking. They were 465,000 for the USSR compared with 474,276 for Canada.

Soviet citizens bought 314 mil-

lion pairs of boots and shoes as compared with 38 million sold in Canada. In other words, Russians acquired about 1½ pairs of footwear in the year as against 2½ pairs per person in Canada.

Canada with 16 million population put 285,000 new electric refrigerators into the home of her people as against 234,000 into the dwellings of the 200 million Russians.

Canada's electrical output was far ahead of the Soviet's. They produced 192,000,000,000 kilowatt hours. We produced 86,000,000,000 KWH. In other words each Russian had 980 KWH of electric energy working for him or her last year. We each had 5,375.

BUT IN heavy industry the picture was very different. Since 1948 the Soviet had increased its overall production by no less than 200 per cent. The whole 15 NATO countries put together had only increased their combined production by 50 per cent.

The Soviet Union produced 48,600,000 tons of steel last year. Canada produced 5,305,000 tons. That is each Russian was getting about 1/10 ton steel production. Each Canadian was getting 1/5 ton. But Russian production was increasing greatly each year and the trends indicate early surpassing of our production.

Here are the figures which really tell the story. In U.S. and Canada we consumed 68% of our gross national product last year. The Soviets allowed their consumers only 45 per cent. We invested 18 per cent. They invested 28 per cent. We spent 10 per cent on defence. They spent 20 per cent. We used only 4 per cent of our people in administration. They used 9 per cent.

But the Soviet graduated 60,000 engineers against 22,000 for Canada.

Soviet citizens bought 314 mil-



TIRIED OUT AND mighty unhappy about the w hole thing, 1½-year-old John Christopher Niska and a shaggy companion in misery wait for release after arriving in New York aboard the liner America. John was parked while his parents went through the red tape of landing. Born in Southampton, England, where his father U.S. Army Capt. O. R. Niska, was stationed, the youngster is getting his first look at the U.S. He and his parents are en route to Fort Belvoir, Va.

Different News Media Face Future Challenge

By RAY ERWIN

News media face great challenges, opportunities and prospects in the next decade.

Each segment of news media has advantages and disadvantages peculiar to its own field and facilities.

These were conclusions of a panel on "News Media, 1957-67" conducted by the Alumni Association of the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, Jan. 16.

The panel moderator, Robert U. Brown, president and editor of Editor & Publisher, opened the discussion by delineating the role of business publications

—both technical and news coverage journals.

TRADE PAPERS IMPROVE

"Trade journals are where newspapers were 25 years ago with advertisers sometimes attempting to influence news coverage but there has been improvement in the field," observed Mr. Brown. "Business journals are in the ascendancy, being accepted to a greater degree and they provide news in their own fields not available elsewhere."

"Business publications are good advertising media and they will continue to improve and go places in the coming decade," Mr. Brown predicted.

Ozden R. Reid, president and editor of the New York Herald Tribune, listed these objectives for newspapers:

TWO AIDS

"First, always report all the news, get behind the news and get all the facts. Sometimes newspapers relax and allow news to come over the transom. Newspapers must be the watchdog of liberty. For instance, the

Associated Press and president of the Alumni Association, called on Dean Edward W. Barrett for a brief talk.

DEAN BARRETT SPEAKS

"There is some cause for gloom but the situation is not near hopeless," said Dean Barrett.

There has been a reduction in

the number of newspapers but

to reduce in their responsibility and they are meeting that responsibility better than they did 15 years ago. The number

is not the criterion for the quality

of newspapers. Many one-

ownership newspaper cities are

well served—Providence, R. I., is a shining example.

Dean Barrett attacked "penal"

newspaper salaries of the

past and declared the trend to

pay professional salaries must

go farther. He called for long-

range planning for more politi-

cally uncommitted papers and

more enlightened craftsmanship

to inform the public on public

issues.

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Fisheries Station Holds "Open House"

NANAIMO—Canada's largest fisheries research institution was at home to 800 persons February 6, when the Fisheries Research board station here held "open house."

From early afternoon to late evening people toured offices and laboratories in the hand-

some building on the shores of Departure Bay. Scientists were on hand to explain scores of exhibits and to answer the multitude of questions they posed.

Numerous specimens of Pacific fishes, some caught that morning, were on display. Models of fishing vessels and gear

charts and pictures illustrating investigations currently being carried out by the Research Board were in all parts of the building.

In the oceanographic section visitors were given an insight to the work carried out in charting currents and temperatures of the Pacific Ocean and of the coastal waters of British Columbia. A scale model of Heceta Straits proved one of the major attractions.

Parties toured the building in a planned sequence, finishing in an improvised motion picture theatre, where fishery and scientific films were shown throughout the afternoon and evening.

BIG ISLAND—Graham Island in the Queen Charlotte group off the British Columbia coast has an area of 2,485 square miles.

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THE LETTERBOX

RESTRAINT OF FEAR

The Editor, The Daily News;

The blocking of the Suez Canal, with the consequent loss of oil supplies for Britain and Europe generally, is the greatest blow yet struck by Moscow in the cold war against the West. There is not the slightest doubt that the whole dirty business was instigated, planned and carried out under the direction of the Kremlin. Nasser would never have taken such drastic action without definite promise of Soviet backing.

But for the fear of atomic bombs we might now have been in the midst of a third world war, with Russian forces in possession of the whole of Europe and Asia. Who could have stopped them? Cut off from oil supplies, Britain today is helpless to defend herself. What reserves of oil she may have would be exhausted in a few days of conventional warfare. In that event there would be only two world powers left with sufficient oil to carry it on—Russia and the United States. In such a war between those two countries the odds would be in favor of Russia. The Pacific would be dominated, from Red China and the Atlantic wide open to the Soviet forces in occupied Europe.

In that complete isolation Washington would be faced with a fateful decision, whether to make a peace with Moscow, or unleash their stockpiles of atomic missiles against the enemy. If they had not already been "beaten to the draw."

At the present time, with Britain practically disarmed, the United States and Canada have the most to fear from another war. North America would have to fight alone.

The atom bomb is the only hope for world peace—not in the use of that devastating weapon, but in the fear of using it. That fear restrains the world rulers of the Kremlin from taking advantage of the military helplessness of Britain today. We must feed and promote that fear. Cowper condensed the warning into one line: "He has no hope who never had a fear."

LEWIS MILLIGAN

Vancouver, B.C.

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