

The Vancouver Sun, Owned and Operated by Vancouver People, is a Newspaper Devoted to Progress and Democracy, Tolerance and Freedom of Thought

# Housing Target Missed

The outlook for house construction in Canada in 1947 is one of despair and frustration. Coast to coast, the story is the same. Instead of gathering speed, the home-building program is slowing down. The target of 60,000 new dwellings fixed by Reconstruction Minister Howe for this year is not going to be met at the present pace. Indeed it is doubtful if Canada will build this year as many houses as it did last year's 54,628 units were nowhere nearly enough.

Now, more than ever before, is the time for the government to press an integrated housing policy. Materials are becoming more plentiful, but at the same time they are becoming more costly.

Rising costs have pushed out of the market even those people who had been able to build modest homes at luxury prices. Instead of getting simpler, the problem is getting more complicated.

Even the members of Parliament can't get the answers. One evening last week they spent more than an hour trying to work some sort of logical statement out of G. J. McNeilan, the Minister of Reconstruction. Howe, on the question of 1600 Bremerton houses for Vancouver. "His every answer, his whole speech tonight, was simply that of frustration, saying that the government was following," indignantly summed up A. L. Smith,

MP for Calgary West, "without a single constructive suggestion as to how we can get the 1600 houses."

Mr. Howe himself is no better. Knowing that 1200 veterans face eviction from the old Hotel Vancouver next April and that 2800 more are in desperate need of accommodation here right now, Mr. Howe's only "constructive suggestion" is an ultimatum that three weeks from today is the shut-off date for any more War-time Housing contracts.

But Mr. Howe is going to allow 30 units at Seafair Veterans to be converted into shelter for 60 veterans' families within the next three months, although he says himself that they are unsuitable.

This sort of thing is not only unsuitable, it is downright disgraceful. Yesterday a Canadian newspaper showed a sharp decline in home building in the first four months of this year. This drop has been going on while Mr. Howe has been talking about 350,000 new houses in the next five years.

It ought to be clear to him by now that half-hearted measures aren't getting anywhere. The war in Europe has been over for nearly a year and the housing program is a bleaker than ever. Yet, in Canada's greatest peacetime emergency, the government is still acting as if all it had to do was sit back and watch as the consequences take their shameful course.

# Antidotes for Publicity

Organizations which are "adjuncts" of the communist movement never display the hammer and sickle, says Mr. Thomas Braidwood, president of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

He deplores publicity given to buyers' strikes or boycotts engineered by such bodies as the Housewives' Consumers Association and the National Labor Youth Federation, claiming that both are linked with the Labor Progressive Party.

Mr. Braidwood is quite right in at least one respect. Communists are certainly past-masters at getting publicity without revealing their own hand.

But deploring the publicity on the present situation isn't enough to correct it. It has to be combated on its own ground.

For example, the businessmen of Montreal, Massachusetts, got continent-wide publicity with the "Newburyport Fair" for

combating inflation by voluntary price reductions. The communists in that little city never got a chance to trot out their placards on the picket lines.

Another way to deflate communist publicity tactics was taken a couple of weeks ago by the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. The Housewives' Consumers Association in that city was denying Red affiliations, so the Star-Phoenix looked up its files on the recent fair. It is found that the Association had backed the strike, although the former purpose had been to increase the prices of farm-produced foodstuffs.

"Perhaps," said the journal newspaper, "the organization should have called itself at that time the Saskatoon Housewives' Anti-Communists Association." It might be equally rewarding and amusing for the Vancouver Board of Trade to review similar events in the same manner here.

# Anglican Monks In British Columbia

Sorrento, not far from Salmon Arm, B.C., is a tiny hamlet which rejoices in a church, a store, a ferry and school—and 98 citizens. And Sorrento is to be the scene of an adventure in Christian life and work that holds much ordinary interest.

Not long ago, there visited Canada the Rev. Sir George MacLeod, Bart., a Church of Scotland minister under whose leadership community life for monks has been actively revived in the famed Scottish island of Iona.

Now there is to begin in British Columbia a form of Anglican monasticism which in the past 20 years has attracted widespread interest all over the world.

The men are of deep spirituality, of experienced wisdom, of Franciscan gaiety and humor for whom reality is never synonymous with ponderous solemnity or killjoy Puritanism. They are not afraid of hard work, even manual labor, and are to build their own establishment at Sorrento largely with their own hands as they did at Bracebridge. Their venture deserves to be watched with good-will, and Vancouver is likely to see much of them just as Toronto does in the case of those fathers now stationed in Muskoka.

poverty, chastity and obedience today than there were at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII.

By caring passively for scattered rural missions, by providing trained missionaries to do evangelizing work in other parishes, by training candidates for ordination, by providing a retreat where clergy and laymen may find rest and spiritual refreshment, the Cowley Fathers, now branching out from their headquarters at Bracebridge, Ont., are likely to find as warm a welcome in British Columbia as that which they have known for many years in the hearts of Muskoka church people.

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# These Claims Can't Be Shirked

There are no two ways to deal with the losses by looting sustained by Japanese required to leave their household goods behind them in their exodus from the B.C. coastal zone.

Yet the public accounts committee of Commons is dealing with the matter in a way that indicates that there is some doubt about handling it. The government is said to have "under consideration" a proposal to reimburse the losers.

Consideration is not required. This is

an open-and-shut case. The government took the chattels and stored them pending sale, on the promise to give the proceeds to the rightful owners.

Storage places were entered by thieves and vandals while the goods were in the government's possession. Apparently the custodian of alien enemy property neither insured the goods nor kept a proper guard over them. The government is now left with the plain duty to pay the losses incurred through no fault of the victims.

# OUT OUR WAY

I'M STUCK! I'LL HAVE TO RUN, I MEAN EASE OVER AND GET MRS. CARTZ TO HELP ME ON WITH THIS DRESS! THIS SILK DON'T GIVE AWAY—AND I'M GIVE OUT!

BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

By J. R. Williams

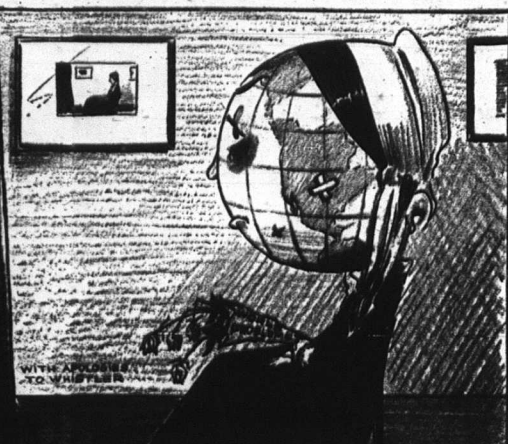
I report these things because I saw them happen. It was about this time that I went back to England and Britain a Commission on Evangelism was preparing its report on the faith of the fighting nation.

It wrote: "It is a grim reminder upon us that we need a major war to restore some (temporary) unity to our people."

Four out of six around that gunpit in Arakan answered the call when the medics told them about Christ, and said: "Shew it over before you die."

What of today?

Exact figures are difficult—almost impossible to glean. War-time estimates are that 5,000,000 people in Britain today are in need of a faith that is 30,000,000 fewer than pay to see according to another responsible



MOTHER'S DAY

ELMORE PHILPOTT  
Palestine Facts

THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY of the United Nations has run into very stormy waters over the Palestine question. Yet the whole job of this special meeting was to appoint a "fact-finding committee" to report to the regular Assembly next fall.

Can any kind of UN committee find any new facts which will clarify the issue? What is wanted is not new facts or figures, but some method of dealing with the old ones, which are well known.

PALESTINE IS A TINY LITTLE country—just 10,132 square miles, about the size of the state of Vermont. There are about 1,200,000 Arab and 600,000 Jews there. The Jews own only 6 percent of the total land area, but they own 80 percent of the income.

Palestine is strategically one of the most important countries in the world. Its fate—the very beginning of history—has been set up over and over again after another. Before any peace became decisive, Palestine was at the very crossroads of the land invading routes between the continents. The Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans were always marching back and forth across it.

Now it protects the Asiatic gulf of the Suez canal, long called "the life-line of empires." It is the gateway to the richest area in the world—the oil-rich Iraq from any quarter—which oil reserves pour into tankers for Western Europe and America.

It can be seen, therefore, that the United States and Britain would react with extreme sensitivity to any move—from any quarter—which might have the effect of weakening the Jewish minority hold on this key country.

BOTH BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES are pledged to help establish a Jewish state in Palestine. This was to be

# The Writers' Digest

WEDNESDAY CLOSING: Have followed with interest the current battle between store employees and certain business representatives concerning all-day Wednesday closing. Have found equally entertaining the ridiculous arguments put forth against this latest move benefiting Canadian labor, which bears striking resemblance to arguments contained in an advertisement published May 4, 1946, by the Employers' Association of Pittsburgh in their local paper. It is not economical, it is not for the best interests of the employee or the employer. It can not be put into successful operation in our plants. It will place Pittsburgh at a disadvantage with other American manufacturers and drive business away. The men themselves want to work more than eight hours a day. The foregoing statements sound no more ridiculous than those of our "Wednesday Shop-Openers" are going to sound a few years from now. —Herbert A. G. Corrier, 2036 Main St.

"LANGUAGE OF BURNS": I agree with E. Hay-Cox in "Should the poems of Burns be translated into English?" Certainly not. They are vulgar enough. —W. H. Milne, 1015 Marpole.

ABOUT DOGS: Can't something be done in regard to the hundreds of dogs roaming the streets of Vancouver? I tried to raise a garden and lawn, and I tried to buy a dog, but I was not locally. The dogs are a nuisance. I still have to be having the same trouble. We've even fenced, but it still all my hard work. It's a nuisance. Come on, city fathers, we want clean. —R. A. G.

# From The Sun's Files

One Year Ago  
May 10, 1946—President John L. Lewis of United Mine Workers ordered his 18,000 striking coal workers back on the job for two weeks while negotiations proceeded at the order of President Truman.

Twenty Years Ago  
May 10, 1927—Australia's new capital, Canberra, was opened formally by the Duke of York. Dame Nellie Melba sang during the impressive ceremony.

Forty Years Ago  
May 10, 1907—Three city police officers, suspended for "dereliction of duty," were fired by the police commission after their repeated appeals had been considered. Two were to get a retiring "gift" of \$30. The third was to get nothing.

Fifty Years Ago  
May 10, 1897—Tidall's Gun Store advertised arrival of a large stock of "The Best in the World" guaranteed them "the best in the world."

# OUR BOARDING HOUSE

--- with --- Major Hoople

NO WORD HOW FORTUNATE I SELECTED THESE FAIR LILIES FOR YOU, MARTHA. ANOTHER BUNCH OF POTTED PLANTS DISPOSITION! SIT STILL, MY DEAR, AND DON'T MOVE! I'VE JUST ARRANGED THE FLOWERS IN A VASE!

DON'T MAKE ME FOR TALK BECAUSE HER, I DON'T FEEL AS THAT'S AS MUCH LIKE A LILY AS I DO BEING MILDLY VINDICATED! WELCOME YOUR TEARS! SO PLEASE FLAP MOUTH AND GRANT ME A BUTTERFLY SLAB!

WALK ON DIRT ON WHEELS!

# READERS VOICE THEIR OPINION

Conflict of Opinion  
Editor: The Sun:—Two conflicting articles appeared in your editorial page April 28 regarding Mr. Truman's aid to Greece and Turkey. One was written by a local writer who still suffers from the effects of World War I, strongly advocating moderation in any hope of straightening out the present situation between Communist and capitalist.

The other was by a lady writer of some renown who, by her perpetual harangue about Soviet Russia, almost equals the tirade of a woman scorned.

If the noted lady journalist was being paid to stir up discussion between the U.S.A. and Russia, then she could hardly be more entitled in her denunciations. Every one of her articles appearing in your unprejudiced paper is a boost for World War III and the revival of Nazism. ROBERTSON.

# Surpluses and Wages

Editor: The Sun:—I am sure you will be in favor that the budget should be a great surplus. This is good news and would be a great boon to the government. I am sure you will be in favor that the government save to it that its employees were properly paid. In spite of the upward trend of prices, wages have already been cut. Can anybody explain why this is so? It is not for the best interests of the employee or the employer. It can not be put into successful operation in our plants. It will place Pittsburgh at a disadvantage with other American manufacturers and drive business away. The men themselves want to work more than eight hours a day. The foregoing statements sound no more ridiculous than those of our "Wednesday Shop-Openers" are going to sound a few years from now. —Herbert A. G. Corrier, 2036 Main St.

It seems to me that both the provision and federal government have absolutely no regard whatsoever for the welfare of the people. It is an example, but what surprises me is how these same men re-elect the men who permit the government to do this. 2829 Venables. L. RAWLING.

# Economic Remedy

Editor: The Sun:—Various authors' reports issued by diverse agencies and federal government financial section of The Sun make it very hard to understand the reasons for the increase in price of practically every item affecting the cost of living index, permitted by the government at Ottawa.

The action permitting the increase in price of lumber is particularly objectionable.

It certainly appears about time some effective action should be taken by the electorate to protect our democratic way of life, otherwise the government will be raised to such a pitch that it will be impossible to control.

Three measures, drastic certainly, but very effective, would, in my opinion, stop most of our current evils. Make it a penal offense to: 1. Create a new form of currency. 2. Be a member of any interlocking directorate, either financial or union. 3. Create a reserve letter, that is, the original cash capital—either financial or union.

In order to protect depositors, the banks should be required to place a name tag on every deposit. The tag should be decided actuarially, at the disposal of the government, which until the government could use whatever necessary to bolster any flagging business trend. It would also have the authority to counter any run on any bank. This system would also apply to insurance companies.

No company should be allowed to issue dividends in excess of 6 percent. Should any surplus be left, this sum should be equally divided among all employees, from general manager to office boy. This system would certainly tend to increase production because each employee would see to it that follow workers did not shirk on the job to impair the returns of extra bonuses. It would automatically include strikes and give capital a fair share of the returns from any venture their credit units financed. GIBSON LINDING. C. S. SERGIANT.

# Legal Hints

The Legal Editor can not publish replies to all questions submitted, but queries will be answered concisely, upon a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed.

QUESTION: We are renting a house and the kitchen sink has become stopped up. Can we force the landlord to do anything about it?

ANSWER: The landlord is not obliged to agree to make repairs as he is under no responsibility to fix this stoppage.

# No Link

The Methodists dropped from 802,455 to 792,659. Only the Catholic Church has shown rising figures with a membership of about 2,415,000.

Scores of thousands of children in Britain today are in need of religious education. In the back streets of Britain's great industrial towns thousands of boys and girls, the children of the War-time Shelters—are running wild in the world of industry, too, there is actually no link with any religious belief.

Clergy have discovered that it is no use trying to preach. It is to be done if you cannot also understand his mind in which he is to be moved to get persons actually working in the world of industry and trade. —Theological Daily Mail.