#### Austerity and Confusion

Ottawa's floundering around on its new "dollar-saving austerity pro-gram o causing confusion and con-siernation from coast to coast., Every day there are new repercussions, as resulting shocks upon Canada's econ-omic life become apparent. Prime example was the nearly-fatal blow to the Vancouver baking indus-

blow to the Vancouver baking industry when yeast was included in commodities banned entry to Canada. Vancouver's bread supply was saved, temporarily at least, by a countermanding order permitting a shipment of yeast to cross the international boundary.

Another example of confusion was the sorry spectacle at the White Rock customs port immediately following announcement of the new program. There, Canadian citizens returning from the US, were advised by customs officers to sell, or throw away, seconds they had purchased in all inno-

goods they had purchased in all inno-eence prior to the enactment of the ban- A prize "high" in confusion was the sealing of a Great Northern Railway dining car at the border, so that t couldn't be entered while the train

was in Canada.

Difficult to understand, too, is the limiting of the Import of citrus fruits and juices from the U.S. All through and juices from the U.S. All through the war vears. American citrus fruits were subsidized by Ottawa because they provided a vifuable part of the Canadian diet. Have they suddenly ceased to have diet value? Actually, the amount saved by the citrus quota is a tiny nart of Canada's dollar needs. For the first 9 months of 1947, grapefulty imports to stabiled 28.

1947 grapefruit/ imports totalled \$2,-578.063: lemons. \$1.900.713; and oranges \$13.172.608. Total citrus im-ports for the 9 months were valued at

\$17,651,384. This would be the total amount saved if all citrus fruit were completely barred; it amounts to about \$1.45 per capita. It is hardly worth all the fuss and confusion let one the resultant threat to health

worn an the Itss and contusion, evalone the resultant threat to health giving diets.

In contrast, Fanada's adverse balance with the U.S. in imports of ron and iron products is 596 millions. In non-metallic mineral products, it is 5227 millions. In total agricultural products it is 575 millions. The products it is 575 millions. One with how to be changed in the product of the products of the

The regulations barring certain imports from Great Britain of course are directly contrary to our announced intention of helping Britain sell goods so that it will have money to buy our

All in all, it's fortunate that the next session of the Dominion parliament was set ahead this year, to Dec. 5. It will give an early opportunity to thresh out the implications, complica-tions and explanations of the "dollarsaving" program on the floor of the House. Until the whole program is riouse. Offin the whole program is clarified considerably more than at present, it will be difficult to get a satisfactory basis of understanding and cooperation on the part of the public.

### To Get the Record Straight

The long-promised federal inquiry into the caims of loss by Japanese evacuated from British Coumbin during the war will open in Vancouver next Wednesday. Justice H. I. Bird, who will conduct the investigation under the terms of the Canadian Inquiries Act, has been given wide powers to ascertain the true facts of the sales of these "alien properties."

Reports and rumors of injustices and "bargain sale" disposal of property of Japanese-Canadians have been widely circulated's Instances of such injustices have been cited on the Injustices have been cited on the Injustices have been stories of suspiciously rise and suspiciously rise and suspiciously rise of such contracts of suspiciously rises of such contracts of suspiciously rises as fishing bod such of the property farms, household furniture, sold "at a song" to lucky or favored purchasers.

There has been the underlying suspicion, too, that somebody high in authority has said: "Left's get the Japs out of B.C. lock, stock and barrel, while we have the chance." The contrast between the treatment of B.C. Japanese, and that of other enemy

aliens of German and Italian descent

aliens of German and Italian descent in Canada, has been startling.

The whole situation, as it now stands, is a blot on Canada's reputation for fairness and democracy. It savors far too much of the methods of totalitarian countries. It is a type of arbitrary action which, tinged as it is with racial bitterness, does not make good reading in other parts of the world.

Justice Bird's inquiry now gives us a chance to set the record straight. If, after a thorough check into the

us a chance to set the record straight.

If, after a thorough check into the actual sales of property, the reports of unethical or too-cheap sales are found to be untrue, such information should be widely publicized to clear the Dominion's good name. If instances are uncovered of property sold at great loss, sold at give-away prices to efavored customers. to sfavored customers, looted or allowed to deteriorate, the former owners should be fully recompensed.
Only in this way can Canada clear this unsavory blot from its splendid wartime record.

## London Conference---Real Chance of Compromise Now Seen

LONDON.
Secretary Marshall's statement in Lor Secretary Marshall's statement in London. Intal he was "nol pessimistic" about the chances of the Big Four conference the chances of the Big Four conference of the pession of the chances of the Big Four conference which failed dismally then, is he "not pessimistic" on the success of a conference which failed dismally half a year ago in Moscon the reasons in the Big Four conference which failed dismally half a year ago in Moscon the reasons in the Big Four conference which failed dismally half a year ago in Moscon the reasons in the Big Four conference which failed dismalled the Big Four conference which failed dismalled the Big Four conference which failed dismalled the Big Four conference which failed the more reasons the Big Four Conference of the Big Four Conference of the General Assembly. But history records that whenever relations among great powers became so strained that a breaking point appeared near, a last-minute attempt was made for the peaceful settlement of the major issues of conflict.

SOVIET TECHNIQUE

SOVETT TO CHANGUE

SOVETT TO CHANGUE

We monitored to the technique of We to more than the changue of Sovet diplomacy. Stalin and Molotov Govet diplomacy. Stalin and Molotov decided at the end of the wind the fruits of victory to the last drop. But the fruits of victory to the last drop. But they are not merely stubbornt; they also understand the limitations of their own power, and they are trying to strike a bargain where territory is concerned which is not under the sway of the Red Army. Three-fourths of Germany and Army. Three-fourths of Germany and Army. Three-fourths of Germany and Last the lemon has been squeezed they may now well be willing to make considerable concessions.

It may be asked why, such concessions,

"OUR WAY OF LIFE?"

if they were ever intended, were not made at the Moscow conference. The answer may lie in the fact that it is Soviet tech-nique to postpone any concession to the last possible moment, when it may cal-culate to produce the greatest-effect. ANOTHER LAST OPPORTUNITY

ANOTHER LAST OPPORTUNITY
They did just that when the five peace
treaties with the Axis satellites were
under discussion. The Soviet diplomats
who knew that the Moscow conference
was not their last opportunity are now
well aware that London is their last
chance to reach an agreement—provided
always that they really want an agreement.

Other psychological factors, too, con-tributed to the future of the Moscow con-ference. It is true that the Russians knew Mr. Marshall rather well from his attend-ance at the Yalta meeting. They could not know, for example, whether he-was a man who would make last-minute con-cessions, they put him to the test. The only way to find out was to be stubborn up to the final meeting. MORE TIME FOR STUDY

MORE TIME FOR STUDY
Seretary Marshall, on the other hand,
was in no position at the time of the
Moscow conference fo be a flexible negotiator. He had only a few weeks to prepare himself-for the conference. Having
just returned from China and being new
in his office, he was not too familiar with
the European scene. He depended heavily on his advisers who, in turn, had only
prepared their own suggestions for a

"The State Department did not even
have advance information on the details
of the French and British ideas on the
subject. The Russian viewpoint was

almost a complete secret and had to be explored at the conference table.

The chief accomplishment of the Moscow conference may be said to have been that the four nations put their cards on the table. In the meantime, each of the four foreign ministers has had ample time to study the problems of the Ruhr, reparations, Trontiers and formation of a German government.

#### COMPROMISE NEED NOW CLEAR

There is still another difference between the Moscow and London conferences. The international situation has changed. Two days after the opening of the Moscow conference, President Truman advanced his sensational "doctrine" of opposing days after the opening of the Moscow conference, President Trumm advanced his sensational "doctrine" of opposing Combunism anywhere in the world—The Russians needed time to study the real meaning of the Truman Doctrine. They did not know whether Congress would go along with the President. In the meaning the Truman Doctrine has been modified and enlarged by the Marthall Plant and Western Germany will be included and Western Germany will be included in a Western bloe policy unless a compromise is reached. This makes the reaching of an agreement more urgent and more to their self-interest. WE DON'T HOLD ALL THE TRUMPS

The Western nations, however, do not old all the trump cards. The British noid all the trump cards. The British and French governments are now even weaker than they were at the time of the Moscow conference. The British Labor government has suffered a serious seback in the municipal elections. France is almost on the verge of civil war. Both governments must concentrate on domestic governments must conventuate on domestic problems, which means they must liquidate as much of their foreign political. commitments as they can. A fail London conference would oblig spend much of their resources to purposes. The Communist opp prance and Italy would becomore violent, and labor troub increase.

increase.

It is true that the government in the

BASIC FACTS NOW MORE EVIDENT
The 16 nations which drafted the Ear
pean proposal for the Marshall Plan base
their suggestions on the Marshall Plan base
their suggestions on the Marshall Plan base
their suggestions on the Samples of the Marshall
western Europe would be avoided. I the Marshall
western Europe would be avoided. I the London conference faile, the Savid
of Europe will become a fact, and all the
London conference faile, the World of Ear
must therefore try their best 10 forget
materials and Western industries,
bridge between the two parts of the Ear
pean continent is Germany.
All this was not so evident six most
All this was not so evident six most
ago. It would justify some concesses
to be the Marshall Plan Savid BASIC FACTS NOW, MORE EVIDENT

All this was not so evident six most ago. It would justify some did not from both side. If we add that tends trian government has already blinds, its unwillingness to conclude a seam peace treatly, and that it will be difficilly indeed to form a representative West Cerman government which would be a well imaging a separate peace, we as well imaging as a separate peace, we are well imaging as a separate for a solving the seam of the se

#### PEOPLE TELL ME - Al Williamson

THE LONG WAY ROUND: Regu-lations such as these could cause a man to starve to death in Capilano Canyon. Bob Bowman is awed at it

the European turmoil are as nothing. Bob recently
returned here to
take over a radi
post. He has a
brother - in - law
who loves fishing.
B o b volunteered
the other afternoon,

B o b volunteered, the other afternoon, to drive the brother-in-law to a favorite fishing spot on upper Capilano. At the second barrier set, up by the Water Board, the attendant refused to allow a fishing sense. Bob volunteered to get one of the control of the the other afternoon, to drive the brother-in-law to a favorite fish-

hard. The two men looked other. "Ask me again ho I've lived here," said Bob ficer asked. "Forty years" ped Bob.

LOOK-ALIKES: Scouts insist the Tommy Fyfe, well-known city and motive equipment expert, has double in Hollywood in the perso of Dan Dailey ("Mother We Tights").

CALIFORNIA TYPE: When Paul C. Wade received a check \$250 from the Fraternal ord Eagles in North Vancouver the night, he made a brief speech saga of the eagle flying lower sun and being purified by the ing rays. "Couldn't have be coast eagle," quipped Eagle R Goldney, "he would never be to find the sun."

AH, THESE MODERNS: The tails are related by Peggy Jack blonde roving news reporter, ab her little sister's appreciation money. The youngster si into a corner store near th to buy an all-day suck placed six cents on the "Suckers are only a nicke the storekeeper, pushing be extra penny. "Keep it," yaw child. "Can't buy anything penny today."

SITTING BIRD? One of readers doubts that we were early enough the other mornin hear a rising and shining be



Therefore say thou unto them: Thus saith the Lord of hosts; turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.

—Zechariah 1:3.

## **APPLIANCE** REPAIRS

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THOMSON&P BAYVIEW

CREASE ALL THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR " PRICES

# Why Mr. Winch Wants Public Inquiry Before Tram Fares Are Raised

The News-Herald's editorial, Tie News-Herald's editorial, headed "Mr. Winch Blunders Again." declares I made-an error infact when I stated that the Public Utilities Commission had made certain policy decisions relative to who had the right to appear before the public hearings on the B.C. Electric application for revision of gas application for revision of gas application for revision of gas delter to men was based on a latter to men was based on the public than the public state of the public than the public state of the public than t Utilities Commission, and

which reads in part:
"There is no organized body
of gas consumers as such, but
Section 122 of the Public Utilities Act provides for their

representation by the municipality in which they reside. The municipalities affected have been notified of the application and will be recognized as interested parties... "We are of the opinion that other organizations should not be made parties to the proceed-be made parties to the proceed-fected by gas rates. "We do not consider that political parties are representative of gas suces as such as the process of the process

tive of gas users as such and we do not feel that they have a sufficiently direct interest in proceedings under the Public projectings under the Pub. Utilities Act to allow their a

## Try And Stop Me

By BENNETT CERFY
Within a week of the outtrain a week of the outtrain a week of the outtrain as week of the outtrain as week outtrain as week outtrain as week of the out
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train as we have tr

The English prof dealt gent-ly with the All-American cap-tain of the football team, but times when he reached the times when he reached the best of the instance, one day he golden gridfron great, "Do you know." Doe's Raven". The answer was a surprised, "Gosh, no, Post. What's he ravin' about?"



PUBLIC WELFARE AIM

I am sure the paying public were interested to read the News-Herald's interpretation of the Public Utilities\_ket to the effect that a main aspect of taking care of the public interest is to see that the company gets a fair and reasonable return. The major interest of the company interest of th The major interest of the com-mission, operating through the act, should be the welfars of the public. There is ample evidence to prove that profits rather than public service have often gov-erned the company's policy in the past. The commission should be more concerned with redress of this situation than with preserving a continuous with preserving a continuous margin of profit for the com-

GUARANTEE TO COMPANY GUARANTEE TO COMPANY
The government has-a bonded debt of well over one hundred millions and the average
interest rate is 3.79 per cent. On
what lofical basis of reasoning
should a government guarantee
5.3, 85 feen treturn to a preferred company. What other
private companies have such a
guarantee?

OTTESTED TO THE METERS OF THE

pay for the lack of foresight of

pay for the lack of foresight of the company in allowing this situation to a mean of the company in allowing this situation to a mean of the company in allowing the situation to the company in the comp

HAROLD WINCH.
Leader of the Opposition,
Legislative Assembly,
Province of British Columbia.

West Van Honored Tickets

I see where the B.C.E.R. says
it will refuse to honor tickets

urchased before the new high
prices go into effect.

When, he West Vancouver
When, he West Vancouver
When, he West Vancouver
The Timporation systop rails to the says
to the higher (1) fare. But, of
course, that is a municipallyowned transportation system

ransportation system Hollyburn.

Plague On Both Houses'
One lesson to be learned from
the recent strike is that strikes
on public utilities such as street
car service should be outlawed.
3000 men to spritt has right of
3000 men to spritt has right
the right of 300,000 to frame,
portation? Both sides should be
bound to submit to arbitration
and to shide he.

the right of 300,900 to transportation? Both sides should be bound to submit to arbitration and to abide by the ruling.

and to abide by the ruling.

a dispute in your bound and the control of the cont

home and break up a lot of your furniture.

Poor cannolation—when I explain to you that I am really fighting your battles in the long run, and the other fellow says.

I was only trying to keep "You would say "a plague on both your houses! Til see to it that in future you won't settle your differences that way in my house!"

house!"
Mr. Wismer warned them
that if they did not agree he
would force them to submit to
arbitration. If they could be
legally forced to arbitrate in
the last instance, why could
they not be legally made to
arbitrate before the strike took
place? Daniel McLellan, M.D.

Gave \$50 of Goods Away in Blaine Following is a letter I am sending to Finance Minister Abbott:

Abbott:
On Monday afternoon, Nov.
17, I got some U.S. money from a Vancouver bank, being told I would be allowed to buy goods to the value of \$100 for myself, and \$100 for my wife, when we went to Seattle next morning.

would be allowed to buy goosa to the value of \$100 for myself, and \$100 for myself, and \$100 for myself, and \$100 for myself, and \$100 for myself, when we went to Seattle next morning. We not to seattle next morning to the seattle seattle seattle seattle next morning to the seattle sea

some kind of arrangement could have been made for the peo-ple who were caught by the change in the law, as I was. 626 E. 16th. A. B. Wyley.

DAILY TEXT L

A LITTLE SKYLIGHT The funnies always Fill the bill, For those who need The funnies still.