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

Paid in Full

Mr. Justice H. I. Bird has disposed of the Japanese property claims with honor to the nation, credit to himself and benefit-of-the-doubt generosity to the aggrieved applicants.

He found that the Japanese evacuated from British Columbia after Pearl Harbor had some legitimate reason to complain about the amounts they realized from the sale of their property by the federal custodian. They will receive an extra million dollars in percentage settlements on various classes of real estate, fishing boats and personal possessions.

The general rule adopted by Mr. Justice Bird in his capacity as commissioner seems to be the same as this newspaper advocated before his appointment. More than three years ago we said that "the government is now left with the plain duty to pay the losses incurred through no fault of the victims." The commissioner has applied that yardstick as closely as his powers permitted and the evidence warrants. He has awarded fair market value to the former owners and recommended that sums deducted for the custodian's expenses be made good by the national treasury.

The commissioner's report and its ready acceptance by the Justice Department will scotch the widespread gossip and propaganda to the effect that the government deliberately gypped the Japanese. "The evidence brought out at this inquiry," Mr. Justice Bird states, "strongly supports the conclusion that this (custodian's) organization, in spite of the magnitude of the responsibilities imposed upon it, has substantially succeeded in administering and subsequently selling property of evacuated persons with due regard to the owners' interests."

Quite naturally, the Japanese had extravagant ideas about the value of their property. They hoped to realize an extra amount up to $7 million from the inquiry. It was a tremendous task to sift the claims, analyze the testimony, and determine a fair policy. The commissioner, with the help of counsel, has done a most patient and thorough job which entitles him to a well-earned rest—but which will probably result in his services being called upon the next time the government has a complicated problem to solve.

—McKibbin in The Winnipeg Tribune

THE SECOND PHASE

'Do As We Say, Not As We Do'

We are swift to admit that the income tax sleuths are doing a favor to delinquent citizens by harrying them into cutting down their arrears to manageable size. But even well-meant kindliness can be carried to extremes, as the following instance will show.

In this case an employee was horrified to learn that the income tax department had sent a pre-garnishee letter to his employers. The man had reduced his debt to less than $100 by paying it off at the rate of $15 a month. When he phoned to inquire about the letter the tax collector said he hadn't been making the payments on the same date each month. Without telling him about it, the department had recently decided that payments had to be punctual. He was told to send a letter undertaking to pay on a specified date . . . or else.

He hasn't yet sent the letter, although he admires systematic methods and punctuality as much as anyone. He is still trying to reconcile his treatment by the department with the department's own record. As an example he cites this paragraph from the annual report for 1949 of the B.C. Power Corporation:

"The corporation's returns for income and excess profits taxes have been assessed up to and including the year 1939, and those of its subsidiary companies up to and including years varying from 1940 to 1943. The returns for the subsequent years have been reviewed although not finally assessed by the taxation authorities up to and including the year 1945."

The private citizen in question can't understand why he shouldn't be allowed a few days' leeway each month on his $15 cheques by a department which is anywhere from four to ten years behind in its taxation assessment of a large corporation. He's waiting to find out whether he will be garnisheed for lack of a written promise to pay on the dot.

Labor's Change of Heart

The Labor Government is getting its fences mended for the next British general election. The first move is the scrapping of the Socialist program—at least for the present. The steel and iron industry, by an Act of Parliament to be given effect this fall, is still to be taken over—but this is to be the last stroke of the cherished nationalization program. Mr. Morrison, the Lord President of the Council, made this plain in his speech last week at Perth.

What is left is the Welfare State. But that is only a side issue in Socialism and is common to the programs of practically all parties in most western countries.

This new direction of Labor, arrived at during the recent conference of the top party leaders, is the natural result of the February general election. The electors showed plainly that they don't want nationalization carried any further.

It is a pertinent question whether Labor has any real justification for remaining in office, in the circumstances. A Socialist Party pledged to avoid further Socialism is somewhat contradictory. Yet it would be hard to find an instance where any party went into voluntary liquidation just because it had completed its pledged program or found itself unable to carry it out. It just isn't in human nature.

With material conditions of life improving by leaps and bounds and the nation's external situation much improved by the astonishing new strength being demonstrated by sterling as an international currency, Labor might expect to appeal to the gratitude of the electorate for a fresh and undisturbed mandate.

But in Britain as well as outside, there is a belief that Britain's recovery to date has been despite rather than because of Labor policies. This is practically admitted by Labor, which tacitly acknowledges the failure of nationalization and opens promises to restore capitalistic incentives by, in Mr. Morrison's words, "assisting and stimulating private enterprise to be enterprising and expansive."

Beware of Drugged Drivers

The Criminal Code provides a mandatory jail sentence for drunk driving or driving while under the influence of narcotic drugs. It takes no notice whatever of the special hazard to safe driving which certain other commonly used drugs furnish.

Take the large group of sedative and sleep-producing drugs known as barbiturates. They are not narcotics. Available only on prescription, some doctors provide them freely to their patients. There is also a large black market in them. One or two capsules taken before a person gets behind the wheel are an infinitely greater threat to safe driving than are one or two drinks to the average person. But the law speaks only of liquor or narcotics.

And the irony is that the defense in allegations of drunk driving often protests: "It wasn't the one drink I had, it was some pills the doctor ordered for my nerves!" That defense would collapse quickly if it was as great a crime for a driver to take strong sedatives before using the highway as it is for him to take strong drink.

This loophole in the dangerous driving section of the Code has worried law enforcement officers for years, and the federal government has been urged to plug it. Any one familiar with the slow progress of penal reform will not marvel that nothing has yet been done.

What's more, British Columbia after July 1 will face a further threat to safe driving, unless doctors and druggists cooperate effectively in warning their patients and customers. That threat exists in the unrestricted sale of anti-histamine drugs, much publicized for the relief of the common cold. But anti-histaminics cause drowsiness, in some cases to an extent providing a real industrial hazard to workers. What about motorists?

Surely the time has come for local action to remedy the defects in federal and provincial statutes governing such cases. It is an open question, legally, whether or not a municipality can legislate by bylaw in a matter only partially dealt with by superior authority. Certainly if the City Solicitor and City Prosecutor got together, they might well be able to work out some added penalty, applicable within the city boundaries, where, by any motorist convicted of dangerous driving after use of medications known to impair judgment would be effectively reminded that pills and gasoline mix no better than gasoline and alcohol.

Fit Penalty to Crime

DRUNKEN DRIVING 'MURDERS'

During discussion of a series of minor amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada, the Minister of Justice said it "would not be in order to deal with the drunken driving question" at that time.

The Minister indicated that "the Federal Government and the provinces have reached no agreement on how the Criminal Code should be amended to curb drunken driving," but, he added, "when the time comes, I am quite prepared to debate this very issue for just as long as any member of the Opposition wishes to debate it." He would then "give reasons why amendments (concerning drunk driving) were not being introduced at this time."

But, regardless of all these considerations, John Diefenbaker was quite right in saying that "the problem is not being faced in Parliament." Parliament as a whole has been culpably and inexplicably lax in dealing with this great and growing menace. "Murder," as the member for Lake Centre remarked, "was regarded as a terrible crime'—yet drunken drivers killed five times as many persons as did murderers."

The Criminal Code of Canada provides that—

"Every one who, while intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics, drives any motor vehicle or automobile, or has the care or control of a motor vehicle or automobile, whether it is in motion or not, shall be guilty of an offense and liable upon summary conviction for the first offense to a term of imprisonment not exceeding thirty days and not less than seven days; for a second offense, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months and not less than one month; and for each subsequent offense to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year and not less than three months."

Penalties of that character—if they can be called "penalties"—are sadly deficient and inadequate. They place the crime of drunken driving in the class of minor offenses for which offenders receive brief jail sentences.

And there never will be a successful crusade against drunken and reckless driving until the penalty is made to fit the crime.—*The Halifax Chronicle-Herald.*

Letters to the Editor . . .

Letters should be short and must carry the name and address of the writer. Name de plume will be used if desired but preference will be given to letters published over the writers' own names.

Fore!

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—I sympathize with your golf writer, Austin Delany, in his remarks about women golfers.

I have always been an opponent of segregation on our golf courses. But now I must admit that such a move is inevitable. The people I want segregated, of course, are women. In the interest of every mere male player, cannot women golfers (and I use the word golfer in its loosest sense) be relied to some course of their own?

I love the ladies anywhere else. But I hate them on the golf course. Almost any day of the week they blanket our public courses like a swarm of locusts. They should be home looking after their domestic work or cooking their husbands' meals.

They hit the ball about as far as a rabbit with a feather in his paws. They drag their caddy carts around at a snail's pace. Stand in the middle of the fairway comparing whiffs and totting up their scores.

As for letting anybody play through them—Heaven forbid. Didn't they pay their green fees (incidentally, about half the price male players are charged). If a man has the misfortune to approach them closely with an idea of sneaking through, he can expect a tongue lashing.

Every day is ladies' day on Vancouver golf courses. Let's get together, boys, and sweep the fairways clean.

I. M. GREEN.

Indian Protest

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—We refer to a very sarcastic article written by your columnist, Lee Straight, on June 5, 1950, which is regarded by all native Indians as a gross insult.

(Mr. Straight opposed Indian claims for exclusive fishing rights on Vancouver Island's east coast.—Editor.)

He describes himself as a stupid, young upstart. We can only find consolation by regarding him in that respect, because his regard for the Indians is directly opposite to that of Queen Victoria in a dispatch by Lord Carnarvon in 1858 where Her Majesty decreed that white people must buy the lands from the Indians in the colony.

His article directly contravenes the opinion of the minister of justice, given in the year 1875 and approved by an order-in-council, advising the British Columbia government to negotiate with the Indians of British Columbia for the extinction of the native title.

We base all claims for the fishing rights referred to in the article on treaties that were made between Sir James Douglas and the Indians, which provided that "the Indians will be at liberty to continue their avocation of fishing in the surrendered territories."

The late W. A. Found, when deputy minister of fisheries, testified before a joint committee of Parliament in 1927, swore on oath that the Indians of British Columbia took less than one percent of the fish caught in British Columbia for their own use.

In some instances, the first allotting Indian Reserve commissioners gave large areas of land for the Indians, but the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs (1913-1916) cut off large areas of these reserves that had been cherished by the white people. On the Coast the Indian Reserves are comparatively small and unarable; therefore the Indians, in order to exist, must earn their livelihood from fishing, which right was also guaranteed to them by the Proclamation of King George III, made at the Court of St. James in the year 1763.

Since the intelligence of these authorities referred to cannot be compared with one such as is described as "a stupid young upstart," we will regard that opinion as coming from that kind of a man.

You should put Mr. Straight's picture in the paper so all the Indians would know what he looks like.

FRANK ASSU, President,
ANDY PAULL,
Honorary Presidents
North American Indian Brotherhood.
Vancouver.

Very Convincing

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—I would like to tell you how much I appreciated the editorial, "Help Them to Tool Up for Canadians," which appeared in the June 2 edition of The Vancouver Sun.

This editorial is a very convincing endorsation of my views. I am very pleased that you considered the matter of sufficient importance to give it such prominent attention in your newspaper.

R. W. MAYHEW,
Ottawa. Minister of Fisheries.

Too Much Fuss

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—I heartily agree with M. Musspratt. There is altogether too much fuss over the Symphony Society. The public have made it clear they do not want it by not attending their concerts and I as a taxpayer do not think we should be burdened with any more of the deficits of the Symphony when the money is needed so badly for other things. The health of the city should come first.

J. FOSTER.

Support Lie

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—Where are the editorials and "letters to the editor" upholding the United Nations, and giving encouragement to Mr. Trygve Lie?

The furnishing of the new UN Permanent Headquarters is under way—"the centre of man's hope." The Secretary-General has a bright new agenda for discussion by the nations' delegates that may bring about the brotherhood of man.

Let us pray that the "cold war" blasts lessen as the General Assembly and Security Council meetings draw near.

WILLIAM MITCHELL.
89 South Holdom.

Can Support Symphony

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—In common with many other of your regular subscribers, I am shocked at the proposal that the Vancouver Symphony Society should cut down the number of its concerts, and dispense with the services of that fine musician, Mr. Jacques Singer.

I cannot but feel that the society is admitting a very sharp defeat in the battle for culture in this city. Nor can I admit that the listening public is so apathetic in this matter as to permit the society and its present executive to take this backward step.

What we wish to see here is a flourishing symphony orchestra giving more concerts and introducing more and newer works. We do not, of course, wish to see the musicians suffer either. As has been pointed out, these people worked hard and without pay to establish the orchestra in the beginning.

Surely now a city the size of Vancouver can support an orchestra on a reasonable basis and do it, too, without unduly penalizing the conductor, the players, or the listening public.

(Mrs.) G. R. ROWLEY.
4370 Boundary Road.

Ugly Art

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—Congratulations to Rev. Dean Cecil Swanson for his courage in stating in his sermon last Sunday evening the conditions in the world today in music and art, compared with the years gone by.

Especially did he mention the Art Gallery here in Vancouver. I fully agree with him and so do many others. For, really, the hideous, out-of-proportion displays there are more like those found in the chamber of horrors in Madam Tussaud's in London.

What a pity these deluded children's parents cannot visit the National Art Gallery and Tate Gallery in London. My father gave his sight for the delicate beauty he loved to produce.

AN ARTIST'S DAUGHTER.

Public Warned to Watch Wallets; Pickpocket George Is at Large

By Cy Jackman

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—Citizens of Vancouver should be warned that a man city police call "one of the slickest pickpockets in the country" is loose and plying his trade in Vancouver.

An affable fellow of 46 years, five feet, nine inches, 175 pounds and dark complexion, he is familiarly known to a host of casual acquaintances here and in Victoria as "George."

I could give his last name, but you couldn't publish it, anyway.

He has a long police record, including convictions of theft, possession of narcotics, living off the avails of prostitution, possession of burglars' tools and so forth, in Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary.

Police tell me his usual field is the skid road here, but he must branch out to the Granville theatre district on occasion, for it was there last Thursday night that I came in contact with him. He apparently never overlooks an opportunity, for it was pure chance that led up to my encounter with him.

I was with a former acquaintance from Victoria when "George" happened along. Both of us recognized him as a former Victorian. In seven years there I got to know many faces, without ever meeting their owners or knowing their identity, and this "George" was one.

I imagine there are hundreds more like us who know this man by sight or as "George" and do not suspect he is a crook.

Here is how he worked it in my case: After my acquaintance left, "George" was recounting some experience in Victoria, illustrated by a friend of me. His unexpected action caused me to withdraw my hand from my side pocket, where it had been fondling my wallet.

Then, as suddenly, he released me, turned on his heel and walked down the street. I lost a few precious seconds puzzling over his strange behavior. Then I returned my hand to my pocket to find it empty. I lost a few more seconds frantically patting my other pockets, before recalling I had been fingering the wallet when he'd grabbed me.

That was all the time he needed. He got away. I reported it to police immediately. I looked up my acquaintance next day and found his knowledge of the man was as slight as mine. So we went to the police station on the chance he had a record. We quickly picked him out of the rogues' gallery and learned all about him. I also learned it was considered hopeless to charge him. As no one saw him take the wallet, once he got rid of all but the money, he was safe.

About all that can be done is to warn others to watch out for him and his lines. He may be the man crowding you in a bus, street car or elevator. He apparently does not have to know that you have any money—he'll lift your wallet on the chance you have, as in my case. He can also, it would seem, figure where you keep it, for he had no other way to learn where mine was.

As for "George," I hope he reads this. Some day I'll have that money out of him and he'll wish he never had lifted my wallet. It's not the principle of the thing at all, this time, but the money.

A friend had just loaned it to me to tide me over a rough spot and I had managed only to get some supplies for my hearing aid so I could look for work, and a new pair of heels, before the affable "George" made away with the balance. I hadn't even a chance to get a supply of food, tobacco, or my only suit out of the repair shop.

CY JACKMAN.
1213 Richards.

From The Sun's Files

One Year Ago

June 14, 1949.—Provincial general election campaigns grew hot as CCF leaders threatened Attorney-General Gordon Wismer with a libel suit for his allegations of a secret agreement between their party and the LPP.

Twenty Years Ago

June 14, 1930.—The U.S. government finally approved a tariff bill cutting off importation of many Canadian products.

Forty Years Ago

June 14, 1910.—Stewart, Alaska, lay deserted after a wild stampede to new gold discoveries at Bitter Creek, 15 miles away.

Elmore Philpott

Who Ups Prices?

ONE OF THE KEENEST BUSINESS men in Canada returned to his home in Vancouver recently, after a world cruise. Newspapermen asked him if he had anything to say about rising prices. He stated quite frankly that there was some mystery about them and that they were probably due to deliberate government policies—secretly applied.

That statement by the head of one of Canada's greatest merchandising establishments was substantiates what I have been writing for years back in this column.

* * *

AT A TIME WHEN THE GOVERNments should have been working night and day to keep the cost of living from going up they have been doing the very opposite. Starting in 1946 I showed how this worked out with the world's wool surplus. There was the greatest surplus in the history of the world. But five interested governments combined to "rig the markets." They actually disposed of the supposed 20 years' supply in five years. And so successfully did they side-step the so-called "law of supply and demand" that wool reached the highest price in history, when it should have been helping to bring cost of living down.

* * *

THE SOCIAL WORKERS OF CANada are meeting in Vancouver as this is written. Looking over their week's program, I am duly impressed by the breadth of the subjects covered.

But what would be the net gain for Canada if we devised and adopted the most advanced kind of Social Welfare program if prices are going to keep on rising faster than wages ever can?

What good is a contributory old age pension plan if a worker pays in a whole life time, say from 18 to 65, only to find that the purchasing power of the pension when received is a mere fraction of what it was supposed to be when the premiums were collected?

* * *

ON MY DESK ARE LETTERS from superannuated school teachers and civil servants telling of their desperate struggle to pay their way. All their lives they chipped in so much per month to provide for a retirement allowance. Now they find that the dollar they get back is worth less than half as much as it was when they paid it in.

That comes pretty close to swindling if, as charged, prices are being kept up by deliberate but secret government policies.

* * *

HERE IN B.C. WE ARE WAITING to see whether 32,000 woodworkers will strike to get an increase of something between 9 and 19 cents per hour.

The real argument is whether or not the 32,000 being has increased more than the margin of the requested increase.

* * *

WHEN WE GOT CHILDREN'S ALlowances in Canada we were told that it was a spectacular step in advance. But as one desperate housewife writes me, the increase in the price of milk alone has more than wiped out the entire Children's Allowance grants.

Incidentally, too, War Veterans' Pensions are now worth less than 50 percent of what they were when granted after World War One.

The Bible Says:

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the glory of God thundereth; the Lord is upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory. The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever. The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.—Psalm 29:1-11.

Signed articles and columns on this page are the opinions of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by The Vancouver Sun.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

THE LOOSE ENDS