

With Toll Bridges You Pay to Get In or Out

THE doleful picture of Vancouver as a metropolis surrounded by toll bridges where one pays to get in or out, which used to be painted in the Legislature in the not-so-long-ago, seems in a fair way towards realization if the Provincial Government continues its present policy of encouraging the erection of toll structures with blocked-off public revenues in private hands.

To have the bridge built by private endeavor and then sold back to the public little by little is an expensive way of doing it. What with the use of borrowed money, the public will likely pay for the equivalent of two bridges before it is done.

but collected by somebody else. Of course adequate accounting can be used as a safeguard in that; but no amount of accounting will offset a wasteful means of doing a thing.

The more it is argued that the bridge at Rosedale is necessary the more sure it is that the Province should have provided it, or else waited until it had the funds in hand to do so.

On the part of many people there is a rooted objection to the farming out of levies or tolls in any form. Toll bridges do precisely that. Theatre, amusement, pari-mutuel, gasoline and some other taxes make use of much the same principle in so far as collection goes. It is not a sound principle, and never will be.

Red Peace Petition Fraud Still Winning Dupes

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the so-called peace petition to the United Nations has been widely exposed for what it is, a piece of Soviet guile, people everywhere with no leanings towards Communism continue to be duped by it.

The experience of these Quebec villages illustrates the folly and danger of signing any document, however laudable it may seem on the surface, without a clear understanding of its real meaning.

Strengthening the Canadian Armed Forces

IT should scarcely have been necessary, but perhaps it was well to make clear that Canadian servicemen who may be called on to take part in the Korean conflict will do so as Canadians.

The initial aim in strengthening the armed forces is modest enough. Existing regular force ceilings have been lifted but the sky has not been substituted as the limit.

of people on this continent into the belief that it is a genuine expression of a desire for restoration of world peace. Actually by evasion it is loaded on the side of Russia, cunningly masking pursuit of the Communist line.

The petition has been exposed as a Communist-inspired fraud, and recent events show that its sponsors are losing no time in using it as a means to impede United Nations intervention in Korea.

more effective strengths. It will be surprising if the response is not more than ample, and if it is necessary to lower present admission standards in order to meet desired objectives.

Future expansion will depend on the development of the world situation, but meantime an added inducement to enlistment might lie in the limitation of emergency regular force service to one year.

Letters and Excerpts

Letters to the editor on any topic of general interest are welcome if they are brief, accurate and fair. No letter will be inserted in whole or in part, except over the proper signature and address of the writer. Unsolicited correspondence cannot be returned.

RE TAKING OATHS

Sir.—The Scottish form of oath (permissible in the Forces without question) and, I feel sure, provided for in the Criminal Code, is as follows—and this is not an affirmation but an oath—Right hand raised but no Bible:

"I swear by Almighty God as I shall answer to God at the Great Day of Judgment, that the evidence I shall give before this court, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

In this case, too, the witness utters the words of the oath, thus making it much more effective. Of course this cuts down the speed of the courts, but justice should be deliberate.

J. M. MacNEIL, Ward G, Veterans' Hospital, Victoria, B.C.

LIQUOR CONTROL LAWS

Sir.—All my life I have intended to visit Canada, because I love and admire Canadians and their country. Now I am here for the first time and you and your fair land have surpassed even my high expectations in all but one respect.

May I give you the views of an entirely unbiased observer (who incidentally, is not personally addicted to alcohol) on your liquor laws? Is there any rhyme or reason in the regulations governing the distribution of liquor here? Even in England, burdened as it is now with rules and restrictions, there is as yet nothing so fantastic as a law which allows a man to soak for hours in an hotel beer parlor while forbidding him to take a glass of beer or wine with his meal in the adjoining restaurant of the same establishment, or to precede that meal by a modest cocktail; a law which drives him to drink secretly in his hotel bedroom instead of openly in a public room in the company of his fellow-men.

If their object is to encourage drunkenness, they could hardly be bettered; what greater incentive to excessive drinking can be offered to a sober man than the sight of his neighbour swilling beer in a beer parlor, while his own glass is legally dry, or than the feet of a full bottle snuggled next to his heart, with liberty

to empty it to the last drop, provided he retires to a hired private room to do so? Truly, "You are mad, my masters."

L. M. BLENKINSOP, 805 Dereen Place, Victoria, B.C.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Sir.—With reference to Government House letters appearing in your columns, Mr. T. D. Pattullo's letter is an extremely intelligent one on the subject, which I think ought to be used as a guidance by the Provincial Government.

I am sorry to say I cannot agree with Mr. Ash. For this reason: Mr. Ash as a Prairie man forgets that what really should be done on the Prairies is to make the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba one provincial state, then it would be somewhere about the size of British Columbia, under a lieutenant-governor with a centralized Government House built to suit the people of the three Provinces.

I am one for letting Government House remain as pointed out in Mr. Pattullo's letter.

H. B. COX, Oak Lodge, Colquitz, B.C.

Noise of Battle

And all hours long, the town-
Roues like a beast in a cage
That is wounded there
And like to drown:
While days rush, wave after wave
On its lair.

An invisible woe unseals
The flood, so it passes beyond
All bounds: the great old city
Recumbent roars as it feels
The foamy paw of the pond
Reach from immensity.

But all that it can do
Now, as the tide rises,
Is to listen and hear the grim
Waves crash like thunder through
The splintered streets, hear noise
Roll hollow in the interim.

It is dull, as well as draughtily, to keep an open mind.
—D. H. LAWRENCE.
—PHILLIP GUEDALLA.



"Of course, if Northern Korea DOESN'T invade Henley Regatta we're going to look damned ridiculous."

Thinking Aloud

... of shoes—and ships—and sailing
... of cabbages and kings."
By TOM TAYLOR

FOR their own sakes I hope American G.I.'s in Korea don't read last week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post. When you're fighting against odds in men and equipment it's not comforting to be told you don't belong to the best army in the world—and have it rubbed in by the words, "not by a damn sight."



Probably only an American himself would dare to say this in public print, and the man who does so, Hanson W. Baldwin, is recognized to be a leading U.S. military writer.

His purpose, apparently, is to reduce what he calls the "puffed-up ego" of his countrymen, who think in Hollywood adjectives and deem themselves so "supercolossal" the rest of the world is nowhere by comparison.

All armies, of course, think they are the best in the world. If they didn't there might never be any wars. On the other hand, even allowing the points Baldwin makes, he would scarcely want G.I.'s not to have a good opinion of themselves.

According to this well-known military critic there were few instances during the war where American forces beat the enemy on even terms, or even held their own. Generally speaking victory came to U.S. troops only when they had a marked superiority in numbers and equipment.

As regards weapons Baldwin is equally caustic. American tanks, guns, torpedoes, to mention only three, lagged behind their German and Japanese counterparts in power and effectiveness. American inventiveness did not keep pace with German sea mines and submarine snorkels, Italian armorplate for anti-aircraft guns, Russian jet propulsion, British radar, Russian field rockets.

His list is long and, no doubt, will be an eye-opener to readers of the Saturday Evening Post. When they note the present employment of huge Russian tanks in Korea, however, they are bound to appreciate the significance of his remarks.

Generals fare no better at Baldwin's hands. There was no American general who matched Rommel, he says, although this view could well be debated. American admirals and airmen were good, but not the "best."

He does concede one quality inherent in Western nations, and it is one that affects the forces of all democratic countries. American soldiers, he implies, don't like to die. They go into battle hoping they'll come out alive. One hates to think of this as a fault, even if it does mean that the will to fight is not so strong as it is with a Kamikaze pilot.

It is all very well to talk about Thermopylae, where the Greeks died to the last man, and cite the Shinto and Wagnerian virtues of Japanese and German fanatics and the Oriental fatalism of Russian armies, but Westerners have not been conditioned to believe the same of life is to end in battle. It may be quaint, but even in war they prefer to keep on living if they can.

Baldwin admits this, but he misses a conclusion to be drawn from it, which is that because they hold life in greater value Americans, like other Western forces, will probably always have to win through sheer force of numbers—if not of men then of equipment—even if it is not the "best."

There is a distinct disadvantage, as the Korean situation shows, in being too intelligent to want to go to war. It means that you are never ready for war. But if you are as though this can't be helped.

Inside Stalin's Hideout

Last of three articles by an escaped Soviet architect who planned part of the interior of Stalin's home.
By IGOR MOLTYANOV
North American Newspaper Alliance

COPENHAGEN.—About 3 o'clock every afternoon, the Russian dictator takes his daily walk in the subtropical garden of Nadesjda. Usually he takes some pieces of bread with him for the birds. His favorite recreation is to feed the swans and ducks crowding an artificial pond.

About 5 p.m. Stalin has a glass of tea with a cracker and some fruit. His menu is arranged by the physicians. Afterward, if he is alone, he goes to his real study and starts to work, keeping if possible, the windows open. When he is having guests he usually talks with them until dinner.

Dinner is served at 8 o'clock and lasts one hour. The dictator does not hurry at the table and drinks slowly the amount of red wine allowed by the physicians. Three times a week he is permitted to have a glass of the exquisite Caucasian brandy that is his favorite drink.

About 10:30 at night Stalin begins to work seriously at his desk. You will commit an error if you assume that he then occupies himself with the current affairs of the state.

As you can see from this story, Stalin's life is simple and uncomplicated and runs smoothly like the life of a monk in one of those splendid convents of the Middle Ages. It is difficult to remember that he is the absolute ruler of 800,000,000 people, more than one-third of the inhabitants of the world. His loneliness and his tendency to isolate himself are increased every year.

It is no secret at Nadesjda that one of his two stand-ins appears in his place on many ceremonial occasions in Moscow. But it did never happen hitherto that one of them took his place when important talks with foreign statesmen were going on.

Observation Car

BARBER Ben put on his coat and hat and picked up a towel and bathing suit when he was about to leave the shop on a hot afternoon. "What hotel name does that towel bear?" the boss of the shop asked. "None. I have not taken my holiday yet," Ben chuckled. "Are you going swimming?" Bill, the Broad Street barber, asked. "A person does not take a bathing suit and towel to mow the lawn," Ben retorted. "Why not take a bath at home?" Bill inquired. "Since you seem to know so little, swimming is wonderful exercise and also makes a person more graceful," Ben answered. "Did you ever take a good look at a duck?" Bill asked. "I read an interesting article last night in which a scientist said the human race may be twice as old as we think it is," a friend said to the Keating Squire. "Perhaps the human race is only half as old as we think it is, which explains why human beings have not learned to live without wars," the squire commented. "Remember not long ago some bright individual talked about producing silent popcorn to spare the ears of picture show patrons?" a customer said to Tobacconist Martin. "Why not go a step farther and produce silent celery for use at banquets?" Martin replied. "From The Ottawa Journal: 'Experts agree that lack of simple courtesy among drivers has a great deal to do with traffic accidents. The only way the law can teach courtesy is by penalties when a regulation is broken, and the offender is detected, which lets a vast amount of discourtesy go unpunished.' ... Some newly-married couples have to live with their in-laws. Bachelors can be just as bored from having to live with themselves. ... Epictetus wrote: 'We do not choose our own parts in life, and have nothing to do with those parts.' Our duty is confined to playing them well."

Today's Answer

(Question on Page 3)
One cow to every 3.74 consumers; or slightly more than one cow to furnish the milk and dairy products requirements of the average family.

Looking Back

Through Colonist Files
25 YEARS AGO—For the first time, Saanich will have a schedule of teachers' salaries in operation, as soon as proposals endorsed by the school trustees can go into effect.

50 YEARS AGO—Another week may elapse before Lieutenant-Governor Joly occupies the residence on Moss Street utilized as an official residence since the fire which destroyed Carey Castle.

85 YEARS AGO—Mr. C. Gentile, the photographic artist, has taken a capital photograph of the New Westminster and Victoria cricketers. Some of the likenesses are excellent.

Who Pays for Waste of Money?

(From The Peterborough Examiner)

JAPANESE living on the Canadian West Coast in 1941-42 were badly short-changed, a Royal Commission has found. Mr. Justice Bird of British Columbia, the commissioner, was appointed to study claims that Japanese of Canadian origin who had their properties seized were entitled to reparation. He has decided that the properties were sold far too cheaply and that the Government should in good conscience reimburse 1,300 of these Canadian Japanese to the total of \$1,222,829.

We have no quarrel with the Government's decision to make up in part for the seizure of property. Fright after Pearl Harbor and a spot of British Columbia's distrust patriotism amounting almost to vindictiveness led to pretty crabbid treatment of these Canadian citizens. What we want to know is this: Who is going to pay back the Canadian taxpayers for this \$1,222,829 of their money?

Presumably Mr. Justice Bird made his evaluations of the seized properties on 1941-42 price levels. Therefore somebody, or quite a few somebodies, got a lot of Japanese property in British Columbia far too cheaply—\$1,222,829 too cheaply. Who were the bad administrators in charge of selling Japanese property; who let it go at such a sacrifice? Who were the lucky buyers? Why should the Canadian taxpayers of today have to give out \$1,222,829 of their money to pay for the mistakes of administrators or the chiseling of buyers in 1942 who dealt in Japanese-Canadian houses, farms, cars, trucks, boats and other properties? Some people made handsome profits out of the transactions. Why not make them provide the \$1,222,829?

It may be that the Government (and the commissioner) are intent on making amends for the bad treatment and the loss of revenues and appreciations on the properties which the Japanese-Canadians suffered, and at today's prices. If so, the Government should clarify its position. This easy-going, retrospective open-handedness does not sit very well with Canadian taxpayers, who have to foot the bill.

Crime By Default

(From Public Opinion, London)

IF you refuse to sign the Communist-sponsored "Peace Petition" now going the rounds you may be for it. The secretary of a local Labor Party was asked the other day by a Communist friend to sign the petition. He replied civilly enough enquiring whether this was another invitation to take one more Communist bugyride. He then got the astonishing assurance that if he did not sign he would be "branded as a war criminal when Russia wins the war."

It still seemed rather a poor sort of joke—or a very labored leg pull. Several days later, however, a friend in a city office was also asked to sign the petition. He too refused. He too was consigned to the future war criminals' list. Where are they going to stage these trials—in King Street, Covent Garden?

Kindness is the expression of a lonely mind.

A biologist says that by the year 2050 the average North American will be seven feet tall. Which makes the fellow in front of us at the movie 100 years ahead of time.

A person talking continuously for 500 years, says a Bellevue Il or Not item, produces only enough energy to heat one cup of tea. And probably an equally small amount of light.

—Windsor Daily Star.

Fun, Fact and Fiction

Among other bits of foreign matter, an X-ray revealed five bed springs inside a Gary, Indiana, patient. Smoking in bed is bad enough, but what one inhales?

An illustration of how medieval superstitions can carry over into our time is this naive headline in a United States paper: "Huge Surplus of Pork Indicates Price Drop."

It's always later than you think—especially in the morning.

BLACK FLIES
Besides bringing along the vegetation, the rains have produced a bigger than usual crop of black flies, also behind schedule. Pity the poor man