

GO PLACES LABOR DAY!

Summer's Last Long Week-End

GOOD going from 12.00 noon, Friday, Aug. 30th, until 2.00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 2nd, 1946.

RETURN: Leave destination not later than midnight Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, 1946.

LOW RAIL FARES FARE and ONE QUARTER for the round trip

Times shown are Standard

CANADIAN NATIONAL

Humanity's Two Years Of Grace

by BLOODWEN DAVIES

There were many great newspaper men serving in the war, some of whom became powerful and celebrated commentators or correspondents. Leland Stowe was one of them, the man who wrote the great story of the invasion of Norway. But recently Leland Stowe wrote another story that may become famous, a report, not on the dangers of war, but on the dangers of peace. Concisely and dramatically he said, in the language of a newspaper man, what all the great scientists, philosophers and men of letters have been trying to say, that this is the end of the old order, and that if we do not awaken to the meaning of the new world of atomic energy, that the white races of the world will commit mass suicide and do that very soon. It will be mass suicide of the white races because it is only the white races who are struggling among themselves for the control of atomic power, or, more properly, the atomic bomb, if we have an atomic war, it will break out between two great white nations, and at least two hundred million people will die in a matter of minutes.

In the last ten years, fifty million people have died in our wars, the victims of the pre-atomic armaments of war. But that was old-fashioned war. Except for the people who died in the two Japanese cities destroyed by atomic bombs, all the rest were victims of our ingenuity, but all our inventiveness prior to 1945 was child's play in comparison with our power of destruction from this day on. Western civilization, which took 2000 years to build, can be wiped out in ten minutes of planned precision bombing with atomic bombs. Our only enemy, says Stowe, is war. "We shall abolish war or we shall abolish ourselves."

Perhaps you will say that is just a newspaperman's story. So let us see what Dr. Leopold Infeld of Toronto has to say about the same situation. In a ten cent booklet issued by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, he writes of "Atomic Energy and World Government." A very distinguished scientist and man of letters, Dr. Infeld studied and worked at Cambridge, Princeton and Princeton Universities, and is a friend and collaborator of Alfred Einstein. First of all he tells the story of the growth of knowledge on atomic energy, the work of men of many tongues and races, working in many countries of the world. The coming of atomic energy was inevitable. Some time or other scientists would have produced the means of using atomic power. But that might have been fifty or a hundred years hence. No one person or group or government would have provided two billion dollars for research. But under pressure of war the United States government did that in order to produce the atomic bomb.

Dr. John McLennan, the Canadian scientist, used to tell the story of Lord Rutherford's experiment which was planned to "split an atom." Rutherford told McLennan that it would require a hundred years of research before the atom was split. No one was more surprised than Rutherford to find that he himself accomplished that task in his own lifetime. So also the research on the bomb pushed ahead the clock in the history of atomic energy. But the United States won only by a hair's breadth, for Germany might have had the first atomic bomb if our flyers had not destroyed every research laboratory which they could locate. But now we think of atomic energy in terms of bombs. The real significance is in terms of peaceful, civilian use. But to learn to think constructively about the atomic age is a task as great as the winning of the war. The indifference, wilful ignorance, and suicidal avoidance of the real issues are pushing us terribly close to disaster.

There is no defence against the atomic bomb. It can be launched in a pilotless plane, in tens or twenties, or a hundred planes, synchronized to drop on selected sites by precision bombing. Even twenty five planes with twenty-five bombs, dropped on twenty-five cities of the United States would put an end to the republic in

minutes of time. Dr. Infeld writes that although millions of words have been written about the atomic age, none of them is exaggeration, for the revolutionary nature of atomic power cannot be over-estimated.

Some other nation is likely to have atomic bombs within two years time. Therefore the "sacred trust" maintained over a growing reserve of atomic bombs is limited to about two years time. If in that time the world has come to a fever-heat of fear and suspicion, the non-American bombs will be dropped on North America long before the United States has time to launch a plane in futile retaliation. Unless the United States becomes the aggressor, and wantonly drops her bombs on secretly selected targets in two years time, then all the wealth and labour she is spending on atomic bombs will serve only to draw down destruction upon herself, and "Mass Suicide" upon western civilization.

We have two years time to build up some form of world government able to maintain peace; two years time in which to build up world confidence in the ability of man to live peacefully and constructively in the atomic age; two years in which to build the defences of humanity in the minds of men. All the problems of Iran and Trieste and Italy and similar ones are minor problems on which we are wasting time which should be spent building peaceful understanding between all the powers so that no atomic war can break out. Quarrelling over a supply of oil, or markets for mass production are no primary issues; the real issue is: shall we live in peace or shall we die, by hundreds of millions in the cosmic fire of atomic bombs? There will be no Red Cross work in the next war, for the living will not be able to cope with the chaos of dead and dying.

There is no question at all but that we want to live and to live in peace. Not one person in a hundred thousand wants anything else. Why then do we fear war? Just because we have not exercised the will to peace, because we have not expressed the good-will that is within us. We have lacked faith in man and in ourselves. "The living generation," writes Dr. Infeld, "must have faith that the advent of the atomic power will some day bring security and happiness in the One World of tomorrow. We must not lose this vision. The problem of atomic energy stands and will stand for years to come in the centre of our technical, social and international problems. On the technical side we are faced with a revolution, much greater than that brought about by the advent of electric power — The future of the world does not depend upon prime ministers and presidents. Those who believe in democracy know that this future depends on us."

Dr. Infeld closes by quoting Prime Minister King: "We must work with all our might for a world order under a rule of law. This seems to be our only hope. We must act in the belief that no nation and no individual lives to himself alone and that all are members one of another."

ST. GEORGE'S FAIR

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Saturday, August 24th

AFTERNOON and EVENING

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MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH

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COMING TO CANADA

Professor Bernard Heinze, noted Australian conductor, who is coming to Canada in December at the invitation of the CBC. While here he will direct a series of symphonic broadcasts in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Professor Heinze has had great influence on Australia's musical life. For many years he has shown particular interest in the musical education of youth, and his "Young People's Concerts" in Melbourne bring orchestral music to over 75,000 children annually.

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