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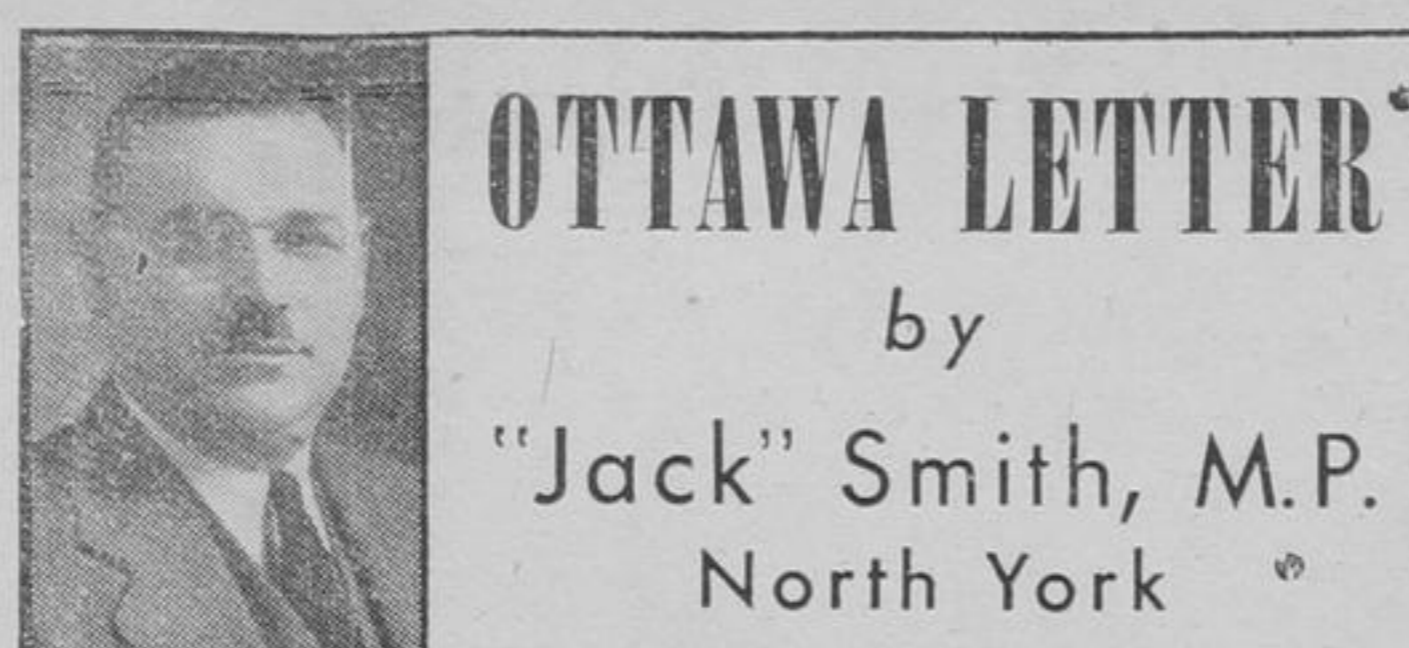
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Estimates for the year were tab-
led this week and while we haven't
had time to give them careful an-
alysis the outstanding feature seems
to be the large increase in the pro-
posed expenditure for defence. It
appears Canada will have the large-
est peacetime defence budget in our
history, and almost double the amount
spent last year. Major part of the
additional funds will go for the
purchase of new equipment for all
three branches of the services in-
cluding ships for our Navy and
planes for our Air Force. This
large expenditure for military pre-
paredness is the direct result of the
dangers which have made necessary
the North Atlantic Security Pact.
This is the penalty we must pay for
living in an unsettled world, but it
would be nothing short of the ut-
most folly to close our eyes to con-
ditions and do nothing about them.
Your government, and I am sure
members of opposing political par-
ties, are determined that every pos-
sible step be taken to guarantee the
security of the people of Canada.
The long-drawn out throne speech
debate finally came to an end last
week and as anticipated the govern-
ment was sustained by substantial
majorities in all divisions. The House
now is busy considering legislation
to continue certain control measures
which otherwise would cease to ex-
ist on March 31st. Business now is
proceeding rapidly and important
items in the offering include the Atlantic
pact and of course the budget. Mem-
bers like people all across the coun-
try are keeping their fingers crossed
hoping tax revisions and changes will
be to their liking. Finance Minister
Abbott hasn't an easy task. There
are so many people who ask increas-
ed services and allowances and in the
same breath ask reduced taxations.
It just can't be done. If the gov-
ernment spends more in services and
allowances it must in turn collect
more in taxes. There always is the
argument to cut expenses. Sure but
where? So many critics make this
sweeping demand for reduced expense
but very few ever get right down to
black and white and say what ser-
vices should be curtailed or what
allowances should be reduced.

We had a large surplus this year
— some \$600 million, but this was due
to the high degree of business pros-
perity throughout the land which in-
creased tax revenue in many depart-
ments away beyond the estimated
figure.
Anyway it now seems clear that
some tax cuts will be forthcoming,
but as to the size and particulars
we will have to wait for that night
a few weeks hence when Mr. Abbott
will get up and tell an expectant
House and country just how high
our tax bill will be for 1949.
The activity of the Communist
party in Canada and throughout the
world is giving a good deal of con-
cern to people throughout Canada
and to members of the government.
The House and I mean all parties in
the main have not favoured legisla-
tion banning the party or making
its assembly illegal. However in the
light of recent statements by Com-
munists here and in other countries
I sense a growing inclination to get
tough with these people who openly

boast they would not support their
own country in the event of war with
Russia. Prime Minister St. Laurent
may introduce at this session legis-
lation to curb the activities of those
who are enemies within our gates.
The long awaited North Atlantic
Defence Treaty is expected to reach
the House this week. At present
eight nations are involved, the United
States, Britain, Canada, France, Bel-
gium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands
and Norway. The treaty is designed
to provide for joint action to meet
any act of aggression against any
one, with of course the right to de-
clare war remaining with Parliament.
There is some arguments against the
pact by idealists but not any opposi-
tion by realists. It is said we are
dividing the world in two camps
which is not desirable, but on the
other hand how else are we going to
get any security. The pact should
guarantee against any war at least
for some years and by that time
some way may be devised to get be-
hind the iron curtain and convince
the people there that the western
powers want nothing but security and
peace.

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Contrast this Canadian way with conditions in
lands where freedom is denied—where every
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banking, proposed by Socialists here, would open
your banking transactions to political intrusion.

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