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POTSDAM CONFERENCE

The Potsdam Conference was clearly an attempt to come to an understanding with Russia as to her European aims and policies. As it turned out, it proved to be largely an affirmation of Soviet terms. The eastern boundaries of Germany were determined in accordance with Soviet ideas, while the western boundaries were left for the Anglo-Saxon nations to negotiate with France, Holland and Belgium. This means that the Soviet has already sliced off, to be divided between herself and Poland, 40,000 square miles of German territory, which is 22 per cent of Germany's pre-war 180,000 square miles. The 9,000,000 Germans within this area, together with 4,000,000 from Poland and Czechoslovakia, are to be transferred to the reduced Reich "in an orderly and humane manner." France and Holland are still to have their territorial requirements satisfied on Germany's western side. Pretty good for a war in which there were to be no territorial aspirations! Russia was left with a free hand to exact reparations in the form of machinery and materials within the zone of Germany which she is to administer, and was also given a claim to 15 per cent of the usable industrial capital equipment in the western area for an equivalent value of food, coal and other products and 10 per cent as reparations without payment of any kind.

In the international sphere, the new Polish "provisional government of national unity" was given the blessing of the Anglo-Saxon powers, who promised to turn over to it all the property of whatever form of the London government which supplied Britain with such doughty fighting forces in the dark days when Hitler was triumphant, and throughout the war. That Poland is now a satellite of Moscow was demonstrated by the provisions that the Soviet would attend to her claims for reparation. There was a promise that there should be a free election under the watchful eye of the Allied press, whatever guarantee that may afford. There are to be peace treaties with Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary and Romania, with a view to admission to membership in the United Nations, which will add to Russia's influence in the Assembly, and to some extent offset the Pan-American bloc. Spain, however, was given formal notice that as long as Franco is in office she "does not possess the qualifications necessary to justify such membership." This doubtless to give effect to the principle that nations are to be free to choose their own form of government! It is, however, a step that will give great satisfaction to the individuals in the democracies who judge all British and American statesmen and policies by the Spanish yardstick of their attitude to Franco—though, to be sure, they are a hopeless minority in Canada, since Roman Catholic opinion was widely influenced by the fact that Franco had the Papal blessing, and the majority of Protestants had no decided opinions amid the contradictory stories at the time of the Spanish revolution though it is now pretty widely agreed that the non-intervention that deprived the Republican forces of arms was an unjust mistake. However, whether by his own choice or Hitler's, Franco did not open the back door to Gibraltar, which would have constituted a serious menace to the vital Allied Mediterranean campaigns. Stalin also made a proposal that the provisional government he has set up in Vienna should be given jurisdiction over the whole of Austria. But the other two Allies seem to have backed at this, and the question was held over for examination till the British and American forces enter Vienna. Russia also

made some proposals for "improving the working of the Allied Control Commissions in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. These proposals evidently are to be put into effect, since it was agreed that the Commissions should "take into account the interests and responsibilities of the three governments"—which is a euphemistic way of saying that the Soviet government is to have its own way in these satellite countries.

The fact that the thorny question of Poland's boundaries and government will no longer be a dangerous source of friction is to the good, whatever may be one's opinions as to the justice of the settlement. There is also satisfaction that an understanding was reached as to the principles on which Germany is to be administered, and as to the measures to be taken "to assure that Germany never again will threaten her neighbours or the peace of the world." So far as is practical there is to be uniformity of treatment of the German population throughout Germany. It is to be hoped that it will be found "practical" to avoid the differences in the Russian and the British and American spheres that correspondents have been dilating upon. It has been noteworthy that the same voices that were loudest in demanding that the Germans should be made to realize that they were a conquered nation have been most voluble in praising the Russian policy of making friends in their zone in contrast with the sterner attitude in British and American zones. Herein lay the potentiality of much trouble. According to the agreement, while each of the Allied commanders is to have supreme authority in his own zone, they are to act jointly, as members of a control council, "in matters affecting Germany as a whole." It is specifically provided that in economic matters Germany shall be treated as a single unit, though in applying the policies agreed upon, "account shall be taken where appropriate, of varying local conditions." A good deal will depend on how this "joint control" and "varying local conditions" are interpreted and worked out.

Altogether, however, there is room for satisfaction that the first stage of the post-war settlement of Europe has been successfully negotiated. The decks are now cleared for the treaties of peace, which are to be drafted by a Council of Foreign Ministers that is to have its headquarters in London, and is to be provided with a permanent secretariat. The first treaty to be tackled by the Council is to be that with Italy, which involves the ticklish question of the disposition of Italian colonies in North Africa. The Soviet government had some views here also, but apparently the other two Allies were not prepared to accept them off hand, and they were referred to the Council for consideration. But the official statement had a friendly tone to Italy, which, it was said, "has freed herself from the Fascist regime and is making good progress towards the re-establishment of a democratic government and institutions." Interest will now centre in the first meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, to be held in London in September.

NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The announcement that Field Marshal Alexander is to be the next Governor-General of Canada will put an end to the fruitless and sometimes disturbing speculation as to who was to succeed the Earl of Athlone. The choice is a happy one. Besides being one of the outstanding British generals of the war, Field Marshal Alexander came into close contact with the Canadian forces which served in Italy, where he was commander-in-chief in the later stages, after General Eisenhower had left for the Western front. Throughout the war he displayed not only great strategic skill, but tactical capacity to work with both subordinates and superiors which ensures that he will fulfil the duties of the post with good judgment. Mr. Mackenzie King is to be congratulated, both on resisting the temptation to gratulate, both on resisting the temptation to lower the prestige of the office by making it a piece of political patronage, and on the high quality of the man chosen to represent the King in this Dominion for the next five years.

River Claims Another Life

The Mattagami river claimed another life last Sunday when George Dauphin, of Bannerman Avenue, died of a heart attack while attempting to rescue a woman who was in apparent difficulties while swimming near Craft Creek.

The man, one of a party, was about 65 years of age and went to the assistance of the woman when she called for help. He started to wade into the water but collapsed before he reached her. Two other men affected the rescue.

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Flt. Lt. H. Murphy Spent Fourteen Months Prison Camp

(From Orillia Packet & Times)

Flight Lieut. A. H. Murphy, who was prisoner of war for 14 months, and whose parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Murphy, now live in Falconbridge, near Sudbury revisited Orillia this week in company with his sisters, Misses Marguerite and Bernadine Murphy. Their parents formerly lived in Orillia.

Flight Lieut. Murphy was shot down over Belgium in April 1944. For six or seven months after he was shot down, he was in Stalag Luft near Sagan. When the Russians began their drive in December, 1944, the Germans force-marched the prisoners ahead of the Russians. At the end of seven days march, they stopped at Lukenwalde about 20 miles southwest of Berlin. They were liberated by the Russians on April 21, 1945, the day after Hitler's birthday. After several unofficial attempts by the Americans to get them out of the camp, they were evacuated by the Russians. The camp was under Russian control for about a month. The Russians gave them German rations which they had captured from the enemy. They got more food than they had had under the Germans but there was no break in the monotony. The food was as good as the Russians had themselves, the Russians being accustomed to subsist largely on bread and soup.

At Stalag Luft III, the prisoners had been nine or ten thousand British, American and Canadian air force officers. At Lukenwalde, there were 20,000 prisoners of all nationalities.

The Americans sent 150 trucks three different times to transport the Canadian, American and British prisoners out from the Russian zone but the Russians sent the trucks back, threatening the last time, it was reported, to intern the drivers and trucks if they did not leave at once. The reason for the Russians doing this, Flight Lieut. Murphy says was the supersensitiveness of the Russians. According to the terms of the armistice each of the Allies was to evacuate all prisoners in its liberated territory. Luft-ewald prison was in the Russian zone and their sensitivity was slighted by the unofficial attempts of the American forces to hurry up the evacuation of their nationals. At the end of the month, the Russians took them in trucks as far as the Elbe River on the border of the Russian zone and the American trucks met them there and took them to the city of Halle. From Halle they were flown in Douglas C-3's to Brussels, and from Brussels to England in Lancasters.

Flight Lieut. Murphy arrived back in Canada on July 14. He was in England several weeks where he rested and gained weight with better rations. On the forced march the Germans gave them only half a loaf of bread a week. The German soldiers stole the prisoners' rations and sold them either to German civilians or to the Canadian, British or American prisoners for cigarettes.

Lieut. Murphy was on the staff of The Advance as Reporter, just before enlisting in the air force.

Golfers Hold Successful Events

Members of the Timmins Golf Club held a four ball mixed foursome last week. Fifty two contestants took part, 24 ladies and 28 men.

Winners of the first low net score were—Mrs. J. M. Douglas and Mr. Gerry Lynch with a score of 96 less 22-72 net. Tied in the second low gross score were Mrs. E. N. Ward and Mr. W. Rinn with a score of 105 less 30-75 net and Mrs. Gladys Hepburn and Mr. Charlie Kemsley with a score of 103 less 28-75 net. Cards were cut after dinner to decide the winners in this event with the award going to Mrs. Ward and W. Rinn.

The four extra men took part in a foursome for the lowest net score for nine holes. Mr. Alex McDonald was the winner with a score of 51 less 13-38 net.

Following the competition about 96 members and guests had dinner in the club house, after which the prizes were presented by Mr. E. L. Longmore president of the club. All the prizes consisted of golf balls and were donated by Mr. W. H. Pritchard.

Dancing and bridge occupied the remainder of the evening until 1:30 a.m. An orchestra, consisting of servicemen from the camp at Monteith, supplied the music for the evening.

Life is cruel to men. When they are born, their mothers get the compliments and flowers. When they are married, their brides get the presents and publicity. And when they die, their wives get the insurance and winters in Florida.

HOUSING

Summary of Articles August 3rd, 1945, by Grey Turgeon, Chairman of the House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment Parliamentary Sessions of 1942, 1943 and 1944.

The need of housing and the resulting public disturbance are such that nothing can now be considered except positive, explicit action that will immediately bring about construction of homes in all parts of Canada. These homes must first of all be for returning veterans and then for the public generally. So far as is possible consistent with the demand for speed, the houses built must be of various types suitable to the needs and the tastes of those who will pay for them through buying or renting.

There are several outstanding features of the housing situation and consequent discussion.

1. The dreadful scarcity of homes which besides the ordinary need creates a tragic situation for veterans coming back after years of service overseas.

2. The absolute shortage of manpower both for actual construction and for the making of materials. This feature is made more serious by the fact that the Canadian lumber industry is largely geared to export trade rather than to domestic requirements.

3. The insistent, evidently organized and high pressured demand that the national government become the landlord of what is called—with apparent willingness for permanent acceptance of the condition—the "low-income" group.

4. The absolute lack of both legal and financial power of municipal authorities to take action in this or any other crisis no matter how intimately the crisis may affect the people who live in municipalities.

The tragedy of the situation is recognized. The Federal Ministers of Finance, Reconstruction and Labour have just issued a statement saying definitely that the providing of homes ranks in importance with the production of munitions for the war. Manpower must therefore be secured without fail. But we must make deadly certain that the releasing of manpower does not interfere with the undoubted and now generally accepted right of overseas veterans to priority and seniority in industrial occupations.

It is generally stated that of the roughly 60,000 men in the army who have never been overseas, ten or twelve thousand have had experience in the building trades either as "on-site" or "off-site" workmen. These experienced men should be released immediately but they should not be discharged. They must be only on leave of absence. They must be subject to recall at any moment and they must positively be recalled if they engage in any employment whatever other than that to which they would be assigned in the building trades. This principle has already been applied in other ways. For instance, a couple of thousand army personnel are doing ordinary and necessary work on railroads; but they are not discharged. They do not secure seniority in labour union ranks. The same condition must apply to men released temporarily for home construction work. But the release must be made immediately. These men must be usefully employed in the making of homes, especially for overseas veterans.

The effort to have the Federal Government become the landlord for "low-income" groups should be bitterly resisted by every labour union in Canada. The acceptance of this so-called remedy for "low-income" is a

negation of all the basic traditions of labour organizations. If this proposed policy were accepted by the people of Canada, then the general taxpayers would be paying a part of the proper wages of industry. An industrial magnate who wished to defraud his employees would have his profits materially increased; workmen would lose their independence, and the foundation spirit of labor organizations would be destroyed. The House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment some time ago recommended that—"in the matter of housing the objective of Government and Parliament should be the complete eradication of any industrial condition which creates a "low-income" group of people who work and render service to the community but whose remuneration for such work is so small as to make it impossible for them to have decent, healthy home conditions without government assistance."

This should be the guiding spirit, especially of our long range policy with respect to people in "low-income" groups.

Two other thoughts present themselves on this subject.

1. Taxation on low incomes.
2. The position of municipalities in the constitutional scheme of things Canadian.

The Federal Government should im-

mediately stop imposing income tax on incomes, say, \$1000 to \$1200. This would deprive the government of a certain amount of revenue, but the net remuneration of "low-income" group would be increased directly by the same amount.

Municipalities will probably not be represented officially at the Federal-Provincial conferences, but the housing problem affects municipalities very strongly. Housing and many other reconstruction problems will be discussed and decided at these conferences. Provincial representatives must have municipal authorities present as advisers, or in some other way must take every possible step to see that municipal views receive consideration.

Municipalities must be put into position where they can deal adequately with housing and particularly with that part of the housing controversy that surges around the question of help to "low-income" groups.

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Before making arrangements to vacate your present home, be sure that you have other accommodation and a permit to occupy it. Applications for permits should be addressed to the Administrator of Emergency Shelter in the area to which you plan to move.

Every person who rents or occupies family quarters in any of these districts contrary to the order, commits an offence and, in addition to other penalties, will be required to vacate the shelter and the district at his own expense.

Issued under the authority of the Emergency Shelter Regulations, Order-in-Council P.C. 9439, December 19, 1944.

THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

Victoria Cross Winner Welcomed Home



Canada's recent Victoria Cross winner, Major Fred A. Tilston, receives the acclaim of his home town, Windsor, Ont., at a public reception following his arrival last week. Maj. Tilston was awarded the V. C. for his outstanding heroism in the battle for Hochwald Forest last March, as a result of which he lost both legs. He is shown arriving at the ceremony with his two sisters, both of Toronto, Josephine (left), and Mary. (Canadian Army Photo).