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Where Is The Brave New World?

by KENNETH MCQUIGGAN, Editor

Looking over the book lists and reading through a few, one is struck by the tremendous interest in the middle ages by writers and readers. These books plug the peace and glory of the "miraculous" millennium that followed the collapse of Roman civilization. Magazines publish articles about the gorgousness of life in the Dark ages.

This yearning to set back the clock six or seven hundred years is semi-escapism--the last resort of the weary soul which cannot face reality any more and begins to date on its adolescence; remembering not the pain, bitterness, cruelty and ignorance of that period, but only the bright passions and sentimental stirrings. There is no way for an old man to grow young; there is no way for a world grown old in savvy to shed its knowledge and regress.

All this pro-medieval propaganda must reflect one of two things. Either the kind of people who were in power at that time are once again making a bid for power; or else a lot of us have caught a very serious psychological disease.

The middle ages were dominated by various religions in various lands. It is hard to believe that religious people really want to line up for more centuries of ignorance--although nowadays, the Moslems and Hindus and some others show signs of it. People are becoming addled. The truths of science have overwhelmed their private vanities.

The main trouble with the 20th century is that it isn't sufficiently civilized.

Our cities, for instance, still present the crammed, planless, filthy labyrinths of medieval cities. We are, as a lot, still laden with superstitions, so much so that a modern legislator of the empire has been seen carrying a potato in his pocket "to ward off rheumatism," and every person "taps wood" when he speaks of good fortune.

Medieval man was a serf. His ignorance was compulsory. The value of his life was the value of a pig's life or a cow's. We today, who think we cherish human life so dearly allow our mines to run without safety devices and the proper equipment to ensure the utmost in safety for our miners. We still let multitudes of people die each year of venereal disease because of our bigotry. And just so that we may all enjoy automobiles we are willing to kill thousands of people every year and mutilate a hundred thousand.

Our tolerance of cruelty is widespread, not centred in any one nation. These are just samples of the medievalism that survives amongst us today. Do we need more of it or less?

Fact is still feared and fought; enlightenment is still hated even by many we consider enlightened. The superstitions and cruelties of the 12th and 13th and 14th centuries smoke up the air we are trying valiantly to purify.

To look back with longing on the arts and the "sciences" of the middle ages -- where humanity was held in the tongs of organized cruelty and intimidation the whole long time -- is to turn away from every hopeful aspect of modern man.

It means we are not strong--it means we are not yet ready for freedom and democracy.

But we must be strong at this time. Never in the world's history was there such a time of mixed-up people. Here we have freedom within our grasp and yet thousands of Canadians would give it up for the will o'wisp of communism which will lead them into the bog and allow them to suffocate without hope.

Will we turn back the clock or will we stand firm for freedom? Must we go on to what the communists love to term the "wave of the future" which is nothing more than a wave which will wash us back on the shores of the Middle ages; or have we the guts to think and dream and fight for freedom.

It is a sobering thought at this time as we remember those men who didn't mind giving up their lives when they believed in the "brave new world." Will we remember them and take fortitude from our remembering or will we selfishly let our fears get the better of us. Will we let the incidious propagandists blind us to the advances which we have made and the facts which are before us. Will we let poor gibbering fools who have been led astray by flattery and money to tell us that we must cooperate with the forces which would destroy us. Will we believe these facts that are placed before us by statesmen of strong character such as Secretary Marshall and our own beloved Churchill or will believe stooges who must, like Charlie McCarthy, the wooden man, rely on another to put words in their mouths.

We must advance and continue to keep alive the dream of "the brave new world." For if we don't, they shall not sleep though poppies blow in Flanders fields and the lonely hills of Italy and on distant soil of Hong Kong.

We must begin to think and read and know what our civilization. We must do it on our own, if we would keep faith with those who have brought us and not let authors just cater to our weaknesses. gave so willingly all they had? If we would keep faith with those who have passed on, let us not say, "Where is the brave new world?" let us build it!

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In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

No. 76. Advertising Timmins In 1917

In the early days of Porcupine, people in the South had a habit, or practice, perhaps, it was a vice, of saying to honest visitors from the North: "You come from Timmins, eh? And where is Timmins?" That never failed to irritate and annoy loyal folk of this great country.

One Timmins man had an answer for that objectionable question. He would look sad at the questioner, and say, with a touch of pity in his voice: "You've never heard of Timmins, eh? Well, we're much better educated up in Timmins. We've even heard of your little bums, though, perhaps, we haven't heard much good about it!"

The majority of Timmins people, however, could not take the reflection so coolly. Timmins people returning from the South usually made a personal grievance of this irksome question. They would bring the matter before the local board of trade and the local newspaper, and ask heatedly, as to whether or not something could be done about it.

On one occasion, the attitude of some Timmins people just returned the South roused The Advance to make a reply. That reply has many points of interest to-day, and so may bear repeating. Under a bold, black heading, "Advertising The Town of Timmins!" there was the following:

"Recently, there has been some discussion of the better advertising of the Town of Timmins to the outside world. The Board of Trade has

"The people of Timmins come from so many parts of Canada, the United States, Great Britain, other parts of Europe, Asia, Australia, other parts of the world, that if each and every citizen wrote to his home town about Timmins to the outside world, Among

"In its early days, Timmins had a lot of people who advertised the Town of Timmins in an effective way. They advertised the town by the special service and the special values they gave. They advertised Timmins through its hospitality, and its generosity to all worthy causes. They advertised Timmins by the comforts and conveniences the town offered. They advertised Timmins by making it known that this part of the North Land gave special emphasis to education, fire protection, health and clean sports. They advertised Timmins by the forward, progressive attitude maintained.

"In other words, they advertised Timmins by making it advertise itself.

"With Timmins to-day a modern city of 30,000, with outstanding physical assets, and more striking other assets, there may be a few, but comparatively few, who dare that early day question: "Timmins, eh? And where is Timmins?"

"Of course, the question may actually be asked in the South even yet. One answer to such a question is simply to ask a counter question: "Did you ever hear of the Yukon?" If the answer is "Yes," then simply say: "Well, Timmins is the North Land city that has one mine that in half the number of years has produced double the amount of gold that has come from the whole far-famed Yukon."

"If the questioner has never heard of the Yukon (and that's quite possible), then all that remains is to class that questioner with the city stenographer. Her boss was trying to find out how much, or perhaps, how little she knew.

"Did you ever hear of Roosevelt?" "No."

"Churchill?" "No."

"Washington?" "No."

"Lincoln?" he asked in desperation. "Oh, yes!" the bright young city girl replied. "His other name is Nebraska!"

"That this has done much to "put Timmins on the map" can hardly be questioned, but more could be accomplished, if all others did their part. For instance, readers in distant parts sometimes enquire why it is, judging by the advertising that Timmins has such excellent grocery, hardware, furniture, jewelry and men's furnishings stores, tailoring, catering and confectionery, plumbing, painting, electrical work, legal, medical, insurance, and car repair services, yet it does seem as if some very important lines were lacking.

"Now, I say to you that Brausewitz is "old hat" and his strategy as dated as the Maginot Line. For years men have been butting up and remaining numbly and miserably frustrated when Wifey ascribed whatever torture or inconvenience she was applying to him to her wholly selfless passion for economy, when all the time there was available a counter-move brilliant in its simplicity."

You give her a sweet and d'sarming smile and say, "Okay baby. You say you've been saving me dough all these years -- where is it?" There may be a ticklish moment or two until the first shock wears off and the import question has had time to filter through, but if you will stand fast and keep the smile on your face you will find that you have a time bomb applicable to almost any of the hundreds of variations of the economy theme.

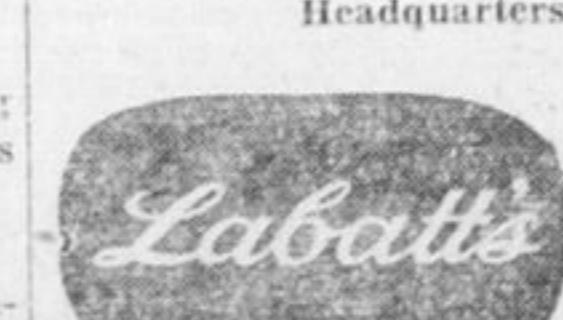
For instance, she is heckling you about keeping your clothes in order and hanging them up, or not letting you pack your own things when you go off on a trip so that you never know where anything is, and when you finally blow up you get the one about only doing it because she knows what things cost and is trying to save money.

Out comes the smile. Later, if need be, you produce pencil and paper, but only as a last resort. You say, "My sweetheart, by and large, you have been messing around in my gear for the last ten years. You ought to have saved a thumping amount of jack in that time. Where is it? Let's take it and you cut and buy you a mink coat."

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Inside Labour

by Victor Riesel

HEARD ON THIS BEAT

A secret police force, made up of amateur volunteers, is being created silently by President Truman's Secretary of Defense Forrestal--and it sounds as repugnant as secret police anywhere in the world.

When the President returned to his Oval Room Desk just a few hours before this was written he found there a memo from Forrestal disclosing that a call had already gone out to the hundreds of municipal police departments asking them to set up auxiliary staffs to be used in case of "riot, pestilence, invasion, and insurrection."

All this sounds like Winston Churchill's famous "We'll fight on the beaches" speech until you see the blueprint as I have.

What Forrestal wants is the creation of a Dept. of Internal Security which will operate under the Secretary of Defense as does the Army and Navy. It will act as a secret political police. It will have the power to declare martial law.

It will virtually make the Dept. of Justice a law book library. It will wipe out the FBI which has been working with democratic devotion and sensitivity to civil liberties.

It will place in the hands of enthusiastic and untrained new "police" considerable control of plants--whose managers will be forced to take orders from the new auxiliaries. It will subject unions and factory workers to new "security regulations" as interpreted by the secret police.

And Secretary Forrestal has started it now so that it will be organized and running--and a new administration will have to deal with a fait accompli, a functioning secret police. How come all the haste, Mr. Forrestal?

New Communist schools, where the essentials of revolutionary doctrine will be taught, are opening up. Newest is the Michigan School of Social Science, with professional Communists among the instructors. This outfit will try to train key workers in the Communist Party's chief industrial concentration center--Detroit. There are 11 other such schools. A tightly-knit Atlantic Coast waterfront unit of the Communist Party is planning to shut down relief shipments to Europe by calling a rebel longshoremen's strike in mid-November. This unit has thousands of dollars in its kitty.

The building workers chief William McFetridge was telling people in Chicago he'd be Governor Dewey's Secretary of Labor. This year's CIO convention in Portland (Nov. 22) will probably be the noisiest in its history (except for 1940 when John Lewis quit).

The CIO will soon decide to quit the Comintern world labor federation.

There is now considerable doubt that Walter Reuther will ever use his right arm, shattered by a shot gun blast. Last week he quietly visited a hospital in Duke, N.C., and the ex-rays revealed that he'll need a new operation, great bid for support of the farmers, just in case he decides to go in for a third party. Two weeks ago he wrote to 40,000 farmers, county agents, grange leaders, telling them the auto union was their friend. He's already received 1,000 friendly replies . . .

Some of the nation's biggest unions, including Phil Murray's steel workers, are piling up money for probable nation wide strikes in 1949.

Just watch tempers flare on the industrial front when factory guards begin unionizing plants. A slew of plant guard unions are competing for power. In San Francisco it's the International Assn. of Guards and Watchmen; in the mid-west it's the United Plant Guards of America and the United Protective Workers of America operating out of the Detroit area; in the East it's Brooklyn's Special Officers and Guards Union. If these groups merge they'll have the power to shut down whole industries. Just watch . . .

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And now it's Indian chiefs and their braves, the CIO is unionizing. The proud Western Indian chiefs, whose fathers once rode the South-west plains in search of buffalo and stray pioneers are now members of the Shipbuilders workers. Here's how:

Along the thousands of miles of southwest desert and grass lands crossed by the Santa Fe railroad, live scattered Indian tribes. The "braves", under their chief's direction, earn their living working in road gangs maintaining the Santa Fe's tracks.

Last month there came across the plain and red rock deserts to the little white villages of Pueblos Navahos and Comanches new messengers from a little white father, Johnny Green, the CIO shipbuilders chief, who is unionizing railroad workers.

The messengers were CIO organizers who told their story through the Indian chiefs. There it was passed on to the road gangs. At length last week there came an end to the longest-distanced, most multi-lingual organizing drive ever run by one union. The Indians and men in isolated little Mexican communities signed up and became full fledged members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, Railroad division, headquarters, Camden, N. J. .

A secret Communist cell, operating a network in the Hawaiian Islands, has won considerable political power in Honolulu, center of one of our most strategic defense areas. Behind the network are a group of sharp Communist agents who moved across from California, where they were propaganda specialists. What are we waiting for, another Pearl Harbor? Why don't some congressmen fly out and see for themselves? . . .

They're going to try and rough us up.

Word has gone out from the world central headquarters of Premier Stalin's Cominform to turn the Communist Party into a turbulent a revolutionary outfit as it can get in this country without being smashed physically by our police.

This means wild, riotous strikes in 1949-led by Communist-controlled unions.

This means the top Communist agent in every leftist union will order picket lines to bait the police and attempt to provoke such upheavals that local law and order officials will be forced to call on the state militia to keep peace.

In response to these orders from abroad, the Communist labor chiefs plan to meet in a midwest city, probably Detroit or Chicago, in mid-November to plan their strategy.

This Comintern confab, scheduled for the week before the national CIO convention opening on the 22nd in Portland, Ore., is expected to decide whether the left-wing unions will bolt the CIO and set up a revolutionary labor federation of their own.

But, even if the Communist unions bolt the CIO, they'll still operate "underground" in every other key union in an effort to create hysterical crises. This maneuver will be launched through the Communist Party's 200 "Industrial clubs"--which means Communist Party cells in huge factories and mills.

One such unit, for example, is the Communist Republic Steel Club, which has 150 tightly organized, highly disciplined party members operating throughout that Chicago steel mill.

Should the expected steel strike flare early in 1949, this club is expected to do "militant picketing" -- which means violence.

While all this turbulence is being planned, the Party is under orders to get as many working people as