

Protestant Clergy Refuse to Pay Tax If Priests Exempt

Some Protestant ministers have refused to make out income tax forms or to pay taxes unless it can be shown that the Roman Catholic priests in the same communities do the same, according to a report submitted to the Hamilton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada.

The Presbytery is asking the executive of the General Council of the United Church to inquire into the matter of income taxes paid by the clergymen of various churches and religious bodies and give direction to the whole Church in the matter of making income tax

LEADS DIVISION IN PACIFIC



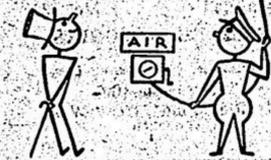
Maj. Gen. B. M. Hoffmeister, C.B.E., D.S.O., of Vancouver, B.C., now general officer commanding the 5th Canadian (armoured) division, has been appointed to command the 6th Canadian division, which will be going to the Pacific theatre. In 1942, at the age of 35, he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and appointed commanding officer of the Seaforth's. He led the regiment on to the Sicily beaches on July 10, 1943, and was awarded the D.S.O. In the battle for Agira, Col. Hoffmeister performed particularly distinguished service, exposing himself to enemy small arms fire on numerous occasions to rally his unit when it met fierce opposition, and led them on to capture the hilltop town.

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returns. A committee of presbytery, investigating a report that Roman Catholic priests are not paying income taxes, says: "While in possession of material which definitely satisfies our minds that at least the majority of Roman Catholic priests do not pay income taxes, we cannot place our hands on 'documentary evidence' as none is available. In support of our contention, as stated above, we desire to place before this Hamilton Presbytery the following information: "1. It would take too long to give all the items of circumstantial evidence to the effect that the Roman Catholic clergy pay no income taxes. A minister writes: 'I have challenged the Crown ministers concerned to deny the statements I have made, to this effect in public, if such statements are not true. They have never denied them. I have dared the revenue officials to publish the figures as to the amount paid by Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy, respectively, and they have not done so.' "2. Recently one of our ministers, in the London area, visited the London income office. He asked if the Roman Catholic clergy paid income taxes. The reply was to the effect their salaries are too small to warrant the payment of income taxes. Moreover, the Bishop comes to the tax office and fills out forms for all of them, and they are given clearance. The practice is to pay priests: \$659 cash, one dollar less than the exempted amount of a single man. In addition to this, he gets a free house, free housekeeper, free car, with all expenses paid, free light and heat, free groceries, free everything else. This is all lumped as expenses. An ex-priest reveals that a good parish might give a priest an income of \$25,000 per year, and he is under no obligation to report this income to his Bishop. The Protestant clergy are allowed nothing for expenses.

denial emphasized that the R.C.A.F. had never even possessed 10,000 typewriters in its entire organization. In view of the report that the British Empire's casualties in World War II reached 1,228,315, including 307,201 killed up to the third month of 1945, it should be reported that Canada's casualties were 102,875 in the Army, Navy and Air Force, including 37,206 dead and 3,709 missing, these being the latest figures up to the end of the war in Europe on May 7. The King's birthday has not been declared a public holiday this year, it is asserted in Ottawa, because wartime conditions have not warranted it, this being usually celebrated on June 14.

It must be reported at this time that almost as much interest, if not more, as the developments in the general election itself of 1945 has been the surprising disclosures backstage along Parliament Hill of the urgent need for a rearrangement of the whole method of choosing the people's representatives in general elections so that a much better order of things in the general election system may be created for future tests of public opinion or the present order of things may be reconstructed in a new form in the interests of the people. For a time there have been recurring outcries against some imperfections in the

THE OLD HOME-TOWN By STANLEY



general electoral system of this country but no real lasting improvements have been introduced once the smoke of the electoral battle in any year cleared away. Indeed, at times much heat has been generated on Parliament Hill by such charges and counter-charges of opposing politicians that one side or another was responsible for the state of affairs, though nothing was really done to bring about sound, lasting improvements in the methods for choosing the people's representatives, including claims of wrongs in the financing of some political campaigns, in the lassitude

of the electorate in the election of members who actually represented a minority of the electorate, and other similar serious encumbrances that hindered possibly the smooth operation of the democratic system of electing a Parliament. However, with a multiplicity of candidates in 1945 such as never seen previously in a general election and many different political parties or groups, the necessity for reform in these matters has been accentuated so that the great prominence given to these wrongs may be followed by pressure for action in the new Parliament.



There has been widespread publicity throughout the United Nations about the fact that the United States has spent about \$39,000,000,000 on "lend-lease" in World War II but it has not been properly publicized that, if the national income of the United States and Canada are compared, Canada's mutual aid would be comparable to an expenditure of over \$50,000,000,000 by the United States. This is the truth and it is not always realized by the average man or woman even in Canada. So far the Canadian Government has spent about \$2,800,000,000 on mutual aid to the Motherland and other United Nations and another \$500,000,000 will probably be spent in the current fiscal year for such purposes, with the additional sum of \$700,000,000 having been loaned by Canada to Britain without interest.

A report stated lately that 196 army trucks and cars were sold to dealers and some veterans seemed to get the wrong impression about this report. It should be indicated here that the War Assets Corporation does not sell surplus war material directly to individuals but only to authorized agencies or dealers so that the resale prices may be controlled properly by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, especially when articles or items need repairs and reconditioning. These dealers or agencies have undertaken to give preference on used trucks and cars to returned men. Walter Woods, Deputy Minister of the Veterans Affairs Department, has stated in Ottawa that the job of superintendents of rehabilitation was ten-fold as difficult in the present period than in previous years, stressing the need for good public relations complete co-operation with civic bodies and other local organizations. "In fact," he said in part, "there are many problems in rehabilitation for which we have no answer—the solution lies with the civic authorities and community organizations." It is pointed out along Parliament Hill that blank pledges could not have been signed by candidates in the general election since this was wrong under the Election Act, though such pledges were sent out by some persons for the signature of the candidates who refused to sign them for this good reason. According to Pat Conroy, Secretary of the Canadian Congress of Labour, unions in Soviet Russia are "glorified state company unions," without being free institutions and being forced to obey the dictates of the State, as well as follow orders. He made this declaration in the capital. A report in Ottawa has hinted that Canada has not made any commitments to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in the scheme to send about 50,000 dairy and draft animals to certain Balkan countries in an effort to assist the decreasing livestock herds there. An official denial has been made in Ottawa about the allegation that 10,000 typewriters had been ordered destroyed by the deputy Minister of Air. Indeed, this

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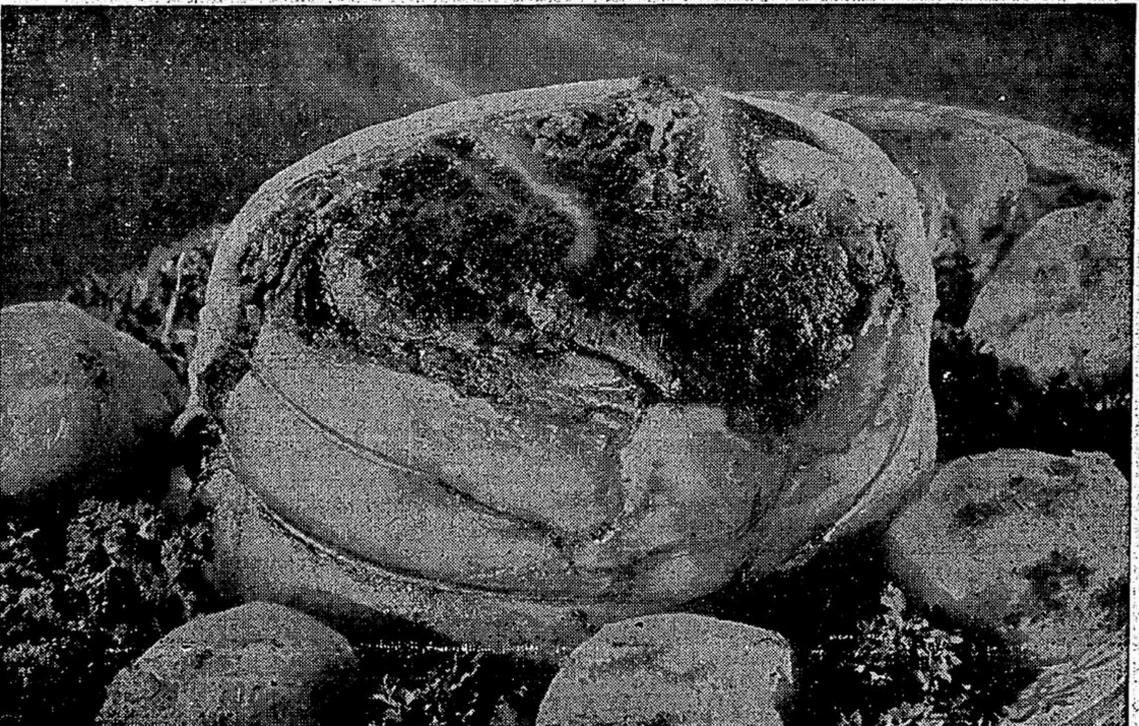
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rocketing of prices known as inflation!

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So let's all make sure our soldier's dollar — when he gets back — will buy a dollar's worth of goods! We can't give back to him his lost years or his lost youth. But, if we keep up the fight against inflation, he can look forward to pleasant, satisfying living . . . the Canadian way of life.

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I pledge myself to do my part in fighting inflation:

- By observing rationing and avoiding black markets in any shape or form.
- By respecting price controls and other anti-inflation measures, and refraining from careless and unnecessary buying. I will not buy two where one will do, nor will I buy a "new" where an "old" will do.
- By buying Victory Bonds and War Savings Stamps, supporting taxation, and abiding by all such measures which will lower the cost of living and help keep prices at a normal level.