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**Defence Plans Under Atlantic Pact Uncertain**

(By J. M. Roberts, Jr., Associated Press News Analyst)

Discussion in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee designed to clarify the type of European defence envisioned under the Atlantic Pact serves, instead to further befog it.

It is obvious, as Senator Vandenberg said, that there will be no "Maginot" type defence, no vast army dug in along the iron curtain. Other experts in international affairs say that Europe expects the United States to meet any attack at its source and seek to prevent the occupation of Western Europe.

The Atlantic Pact commits the United States and the other signatories to aid each other by war or measures short of war, and in such theatre, as shall be determined by the exigencies of the time. No more, no less. The type of defence to be planned is not a part of the pact, but of the corollary rearmament program.

It should also be remembered that the pact is designed less to prepare for war than to prevent war by presenting a united front of the Western Powers which it would be folly for anyone to attack.

This makes the type of defence of minor importance as compared with the idea that defence certainly will be made. But from the military standpoint alone it is clear that the United States cannot guarantee that no aggressor will cross the Elbe. It is committed, not by treaty but by its own actions in rebuilding the industry of Western Germany and Europe, to prevent enemy occupation of the Ruhr or a crossing of the Rhine.

Allied military men seem to think they can do so. Not by maintaining vast peacetime armies, but with a relatively small number of divisions at the start, with the backing of the United States air force and the atom bomb. The idea will be to contain the first enemy thrusts beyond the Rhine and knock out his centres of supply and command while full mobilization is being accomplished.

Bringing the case specifically around to Russia, one of the highest American military authorities on Europe—not an air force man—has told me that the air force can knock out these centres, and that when this is done Europe can handle Russian armies, which will be very largely cut off from home, with very little help.

All the quibbling over the nature of American commitments under the Atlantic Pact is so much verbiage anyway. With an American occupation army in the heart of Europe, everyone will know what it means if anybody starts through there.

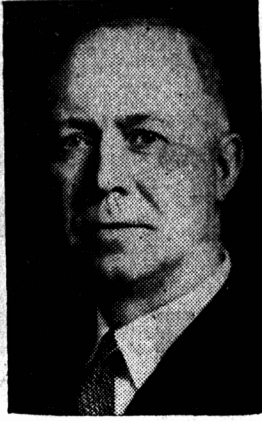
**New Officials Of The Bank Of Nova Scotia**



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At a meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bank of Nova Scotia on Tuesday, May 10th, Mr. H. D. Burns, President since October 30th, 1945, was elected Chairman of the Board. Mr. H. L. Enman, who succeeded Mr. Burns as General Manager in 1945, was elected President. Succeeding Mr. Enman, the Board appointed as General Manager, Mr. C. Sydney Frost, who has been an Assistant General Manager for the past two years.

**British Liberal Party's Future Seen Uncertain**

(By ALAN HARVEY (Canadian Press Staff Writer))

LONDON, May 16 — (CP)—The shadow cast by Britain's Liberal Party still seems a bit blurred around the edges.

Whether it will loom large before the 1950 general election, or fade into political limbo, is not yet clear.

The party's three-day annual conference at Hastings, Sussex, did not supply an answer. Amid the crowd and clamor—some 1,400 delegates attended—there were fighting speeches and scenes of high enthusiasm.

But it was difficult to determine whether the Liberals will be able to increase their tiny team of 11 members in the 640-seat House of Commons.

Clement Davies, 64-year-old parliamentary leader, was sure it can. "Give us a straight fight with a Tory and we could beat him easily," he said. "Give us a straight fight with a Socialist and we would win."

There were other portents of a revival of Liberal spirit. Frank Byers, hard-hitting chief whip, raised £15,202 (\$80,808) for his campaign fund at one session. Compared with the Conservative Party's \$1,000,000 "fighting fund," this was small but nevertheless encouraging.

The Liberals also showed considerable unity in resolutions on future policy—galling to the Conservatives—who have been goaded for a precise statement of policy and haven't yet produced one.

In general, the Liberals' recovery program calls for strong anti-monopoly measures, progressive reduction of food subsidies, close scrutiny of nationalized industries and "co-ownership" in industry.

The last motion produced spirited debate. It would require firms with capital of more than £50,000 employing not fewer than 50 persons to submit schemes enabling employee partnership. A resolution which would have provided taxation relief where such schemes were introduced was soundly defeated.

A delegate's claim that co-ownership would be worse than nationalization was greeted with cries of "rubbish." Thus were the right-wing elements routed.

One thing emerged definitely—the Liberals will not make common cause with the Conservatives. In a speech larded with quotations from Shakespeare, Shelley, Milton and Wordsworth, Sir Andrew McPadyean, new president of the Liberal Assembly, said there is no foundation for such a hope.

Comment on the conference was divided. The Evening News, Conservative, noting signs of spring, cynically included the Liberals, who, it said, "twitched twice, and held a conference."

The Independent Sunday Observer, on the other hand, said the conference left the impression that the Liberals are still "the party of ideas."

**B. I. S. Monthly Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of the Benevolent Irish Society was held in the Whelan Memorial Hall on Wednesday evening, May 11th, with a large attendance of members present.

The president, Bro. J. J. Connolly presided.

Five new members were received into the Society. After being initiated the president spoke words of welcome on behalf of the society to the new members, after which each new member expressed his pleasure of how happy he was to be joining such a society.

The audit report was given. In the absence of the chairman, Bro. Russell St. John gave the report which showed that the Society books and statements were found correct.

The manager, Bro. John Callaghan gave his report for the past year. He thanked the executive and members of the Society for their loyal co-operation during the past year and hoped that the Society members would continue to do so.

The chairman of the social evening, Bro. W. W. McCarron gave a report on the entertainments held in the hall since last meeting.

Bro. J. Pius Callaghan, treasurer of the Society gave a very splendid report of the finances of the Society for the past year.

Other committee chairmen appointed are as follows: Finance,

Patrick Doyle; Property, John W. Hogan; Social Evening, W. W. McCarron; Charitable, Art McQuaid; Erin Club, J. R. St. John; Whelan Ground, C. Corrigan; Audit, Thomas McAvinn; Contact member to Ladies Auxiliary, J. J. Connolly; Entertainment, W. J. Smith.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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**SMOOTHER RIDING**—"My car rides smoother on B.F. Goodrich tires. They absorb more road shock yet maintain correct air pressure and need very little attention."—R. Knox Ferguson, London, Ont.

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