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City has everything to offer Alaska

IT is seldom that an opportunity to put over one's point crops up a second time, but Prince Rupert is in that happy position, with the arrival of Carl L. Junge, executive director of the Alaska International Rail and Highway Commission. Mr. Junge, is scheduled to be here today to see for himself what Prince Rupert has to offer to Alaska's transportation facilities.

As the city's and Chamber of Commerce's joint brief stressed at the commission hearings in September, Prince Rupert has just about everything, both from the standpoint of a marine highway terminal and a railhead for shipping from the United States midwest.

Both the federal government and our own British Columbia government have pledged their full support to a project that will link Prince Rupert with Alaska. A ferry slip will be built, an access road constructed and by the time that the proposed marine highway from Canada to Haines, Alaska, is ready to go into action, Highway 16 will be paved.

Here in Prince Rupert we have a ready-made terminus. We have waterfront space for a ferry landing, shopping facilities and accommodation for tourists and travellers. More of the latter are needed and it is up to far-sighted businessmen here to do something about it. But even as we stand today, we are ready to go ahead on the project with all of the advantages of a well-established port.

Of far greater interest to the Alaskans must be the fact that it is cheaper to ship through Prince Rupert than through any other B.C. port or U.S. port for that matter.

At the dinner for Mr. Junge, a spokesman for the city should, at the risk of being repetitious, make sure, the Alaskan official receives the full impact of what this city has to offer the 50th state and its even greater potential.

Let's keep Prince Rupert busy

WITH the city's winter works plan now drawn up until early in January and employment laid on for at least 20 men, it is time for the individual to start thinking of what he can do to help the annual winter slack time. Firms and businesses can do likewise and take advantage of the lull which usually occurs in large outdoor contracts and jobs.

Without a doubt there are more men available in the winter time. Some may think that the Department of Labor's "Plan Now, Do it Now" program is a fallacy, in that it only keeps contractors and their skilled labor busy. That is true up to a point. However, the fact remains that at this time of the year work for contractors gets slack too, and if there are no jobs available then they lay off their staff. Therefore winter works and "do it now" projects keeps these same men employed and off the unemployment insurance rolls.

So let's keep Prince Rupert busy and more prosperous by taking up the slack seasonal unemployment now and creating work of any kind. That will take care of both the skilled labor and the unskilled and will make it a better winter for everyone. Don't wait for spring . . . do it now.

It's economy!

The Duke of Norfolk can take comfort from this thought: An Englishman's home is his castle whether it is Arundel Castle, magnificent, 900-year-old home of the Norfolks, or just a 12-room house in the grounds. People have been known to live regally in much more austere surroundings.

Nothing will change except that the family will have to walk three-quarters of a mile through the 11,000-acre private park to visit the old home.

The duke is suffering from the occupational complaint of Britain's bluebloods, vast homes that cost too much to maintain.

However, there is another advantage in the move. The family will now be well out of the way when the tourists pour through the castle after paying their one-shilling admission fee. Dodging tourists in your own home, even Arundel Castle, must be quite a feat.

—The Toronto Telegram.

Coin-slot artist

Some of us have watched the relentless march of machines and electronic brains without alarm because there were, we thought, some things a machine couldn't do. Paint a picture, for instance.

But now a machine has been developed which will turn out a painting to suit your mood. You drop a coin in a slot, wiggle a few levers, the machine goes splish, splash. And out drops an original painting. Jean Tinguely, a Paris painter, has certified that the result is, indeed, art.

We still think a machine can't paint a picture that means anything or write a book or enjoy a joke. But we're not as sure as we were.

—The Winnipeg Tribune.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

China not giving up old Kremlin tactics

By KEN SMITH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Communist China is showing more and more signs of being an apt student of the old Kremlin school of international diplomacy.

That is the school that, until Soviet Premier Khrushchev introduced his latest peace campaign, specialized in keeping the fire of fear burning throughout the world.

To do this, one emergency after another was sparked following the end of the war—trouble in Europe, in the Middle East, in the Far East. Then back to trouble in Europe.

As soon as the ashes of one crisis cooled, another was being fanned.

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But now that Khrushchev's peace drive has gained momentum, Russia has been soft-pedalling, although not necessarily backing down on, many of the issues that before had caused it to throw the gauntlet in the West's face.

There has been no soft-pedalling by Peking, however. Communist China has been coming through loudly and clearly—and aggressively—on the international scene.

In the last two years, Red China has been at the root of three major international crises: Quemoy-Matsu, Tibet and the Indian-Chinese border disputes. Now a fourth may be in the making in troubled Indonesia.

Peking's excuse for turning on Indonesia was that country's order, issued last May, that Chinese merchants, who dominate the island republic's rural economy, sell out and move to designated cities by January 1.

Now, seven months after the order was issued, Peking has termed it unfriendly and accused Indonesia of pushing an "anti-Chinese movement." It could seriously harm friendly relations between the two countries unless withdrawn, the Red Chinese Embassy said.

The Indonesian foreign office said the move was necessary because Chinese merchants could and did upset the national economy by their control over goods and prices.

Indonesia is not ready to sacrifice the economic welfare of 88,000,000 Indonesians to protect a "small group" of Chinese traders, Foreign Minister Subandrio said.

He also said that pressing security problems made the switch essential. He declined to elaborate on thi point, but an informed Indonesian source said the government feared that Peking had been planning to work through the merchants to sabotage the republic's economy.

Destruction of Indonesia's already-shaky economy would leave the country ripe for revolt or external take-over. Economic dissatisfaction was a major factor in causing a dissident group to set up a revolutionary government in West Sumatra and the Celebes early in 1958.

Although the Indonesian government succeeded in crushing that uprising within a few months discontent still is strong throughout the islands.

There is no way of telling at the moment whether Red China actually hopes to be able to take over the island republic—although it must be attractive with its wealth of untapped natural resources and its strategic position.

But the Chinese move is certain to bring still more fear and tension to countries living under Red China's shadow.

MAIDEN PUBLIC FLIGHT—The Canadair 44, a four-engined cargo modification of the turbo-prop Bristol Britannia, makes its first public flight accompanied by an RCAF T-33 Silver Star jet trainer. The CL-44 is the largest plane ever built in Canada. Twelve have been ordered by the RCAF. —CP photo.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

Margaret L. Murray made a name for herself as the publisher of Canada's liveliest weekly. Her Alaska Highway News was rich with slang, insult and rough, kindly phrases of good actions.

Mrs. Murray often used the columns of her paper as a substitute for letter-writing. Instead of replying to a correspondent directly, she would send a letter to the printer.

An unwary friend who wrote to Mrs. Murray ran the risk of having his letter appear in the News.

✦ ✦ ✦

Some time ago Mrs. Murray handed the Alaska Highway News over to the next generation. But she wasn't able to stay idle for long.

Last month, at the age of 71, Mrs. Murray published the first number of another frontier newspaper, the Fort Nelson News, 250-odd miles along the Alaska Highway northeast of Fort St. John.

She's running her new paper in the same rip-roaring way that made the Alaska Highway News famous from coast to coast.

✦ ✦ ✦

Here's an editorial from the Fort Nelson News that gives the flavor of Mrs. Murray's prose. I make no comment, one way or another, on her opinions:

"This is an appropriate line for ex-mayor Don McKay of Calgary, who for 14 years whooped Calgary up from a mediocre cow-town to the most publicized and loved city in all Canada.

"Don got ulcers from drinking civic cocktails with the hoi polloi from Timbuctoo or to hell and gone. He got fallen arches from standing in line receiving civic functions.

"He got hangnails from frustration over small-minded officials who took the kudos off Don's suffering and success and then let Don down with a paltry expense account, a niggardly salary and a jealous executive.

"The people of Calgary have a good deal to answer for in the shabby loyalty they did not give Don, when he was under the gun for a few bags of cement.

"Don also got censured for taking a trip some guy paid for, who likely had a 'conshunts' feeling after cleaning up on some deal after a million satisfied customers had come to Calgary to see Don McKay—at Stampede time.

"The people make thugs out of their public men nowadays. They expect public men to do a job and then when it is done in style like Don's, they persecute him for the methods he had to use on their behalf.

"CALGARY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME."

✦ ✦ ✦

That's Mrs. Murray—a loyal frontier publisher who speaks up for her friends and her beliefs with revival-meeting eloquence.

"If the Public Utilities could only have taken over," she says of Fort Nelson, "what a sweeter winter we could have had, but we'll just have to hold our noses and congratulate ourselves that Tokyo smells a darn sight worse.

"Look at all the conversation pieces we are building up at the rugged northland of Mile 300. All the rest of our lives we can be telling how we roughed it at Fort Nelson the winter of 1959 without plumbing, paving or pouring water.

". . . Money . . . is tight . . . (but) there will be plenty of folding money earned the next five months and everyone will forget about the uneasy waiting time."

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

We pint sized men are secretly very pleased to hear these new small motor cars called compact cars.

It is very pleasant to feel one's self compact instead of peewee. On our drivers licenses, hunting licenses and insurance identity cards, it is going to be nice from now on to put "compact" in the space formerly reserved for 5 foot 3 or thereabouts. We assume that from now on, novelists and writers of romance will refer to us not as small men but as compact men, even if we have to play the villain's role, which so often falls to our lot. Maybe not the chief villain, who is usually described as heavy-built, but his assistants, the minor villains.

As a matter of fact, compact is a word that should have come into popular usage long ago to describe us handy-sized little whiffets. The dictionary says compact means "joined or packed together; closely and firmly united; dense, solid." If you look at us closely, you will see this is so. We have all the same limbs, parts and organs as larger specimens of our kind, but they are not so loosely thrown together. We're snug. There is no waste space about us, as there usually is in large men. Why a man has to jack himself up on four foot legs has always been a mystery to us compact types. We fit into life so much more neatly.

It is going to be fun for us to watch the uncompact majority of mankind trying to be comfortable in these new, modern and eminently sensible compact cars.

Remember English

From The Windsor Daily Star

Much is being said and written these days about the increased interest being paid in the schools of the nation to science, mathematics and foreign languages. Progress along these lines is all to the good but there is also need for a word of caution.

Dr. John B. Fisher, newly appointed dean of Columbia University's famed teachers' college, has urged caution. In his words: "It is unfortunate that in the flurry of our current excitement about science, mathematics and foreign languages, we have not continued to emphasize that the effectiveness of education in every other field comes to rest ultimately upon the student's ability to use his mother tongue . . . A principal measure of the effectiveness of our schools as instruments of universal education is their success in teaching the use of English."

The case for the teaching of English is sound. On this continent it must take first place in education.

LITERARY JUDGE

Chief Justice of Ontario from 1884 to 1897, Sir John Hagarty was an occasional writer of verse.

Civic questions . . . and answers

This is one of a series of questions on city affairs, problems and projects on which Mayor P. J. Lester has offered to provide answers. Questions should be sent to "Civic Questions and Answers," City Hall, Prince Rupert. The answes do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the whole or individual members of City Council.

Q. What plans are being made to celebrate Prince Rupert's 50th birthday?

A. A Golden Jubilee committee, under the chairmanship of Alderman R. G. Large has been formed and it has been allocated funds by City Council until the end of 1959. Preparations are being made for a very successful celebration.

Perjury rampant

From the Sudbury Star

A suburban Toronto magistrate who convicted a man on a charge of perjury — lying under oath—said courtroom Bibles might as well be dictionaries most of the time. In short, swearing on the Bible doesn't mean much to many people.

Every newspaper reporter on a 'court beat" knows what the magistrate is talking about.

Witnesses will parade into the witness box and tell totally different stories. It is obvious that someone is lying and some magistrates make no bones about expressing that belief to witnesses.

Chilling thought

From the Portland Oregonian

We were chilled when we read the story about the two Roseburg boys and the "abominable rainman." The boys said they saw in the woods a "man-like" creature 14 feet tall, fired five shots from a 30.06 rifle at it and watched it run away "screaming like a cat."

A state policeman investigating the story found tracks which resembled those of a bear. But the boys said they had seen bear before, and this was not one.

We were chilled, not at the thought that the boys' imagination may have been working overtime, nor the possibility that a strange and fearsome creature may be at large. What made us shiver was the lightly-made assertion that a 17-year-old boy had fired five soft-nosed bullets from a gun that will stop an elk at 300 yards—at a "thing" he could not identify. Could it have been a man?

With the classics

But you are lovely leaves, where we
May read how soon things have
Their end, though ne'er so brave:
And after they have shown their pride,
Like you a while: they glide
Into the grave.

Robert Herrick

HOW TO PLAN

YOUR CHRISTMAS MAIL

1 Buy your stamps now and avoid the Christmas rush. 2 and 5 cent stamps are available in handy dollar packages for your convenience.

2 Check your mailing list for correct postal addresses. When mailing to Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec, be sure to include the Postal Zone Number.

3 Tie your out-of-town mail and local mail in separate bundles. Attach the labels that the Post Office supplies. This speeds delivery. Be sure to put your return address on the envelopes.

4 Parcels should be wrapped well and tied with strong cord. Print the address. And put your return address outside and inside the parcel. Have parcels weighed at your neighbourhood Post Office

5 Mail early. Nothing is so disappointing as Christmas mail that arrives too late. A Post Office leaflet will be delivered to your home giving suggested mailing dates.

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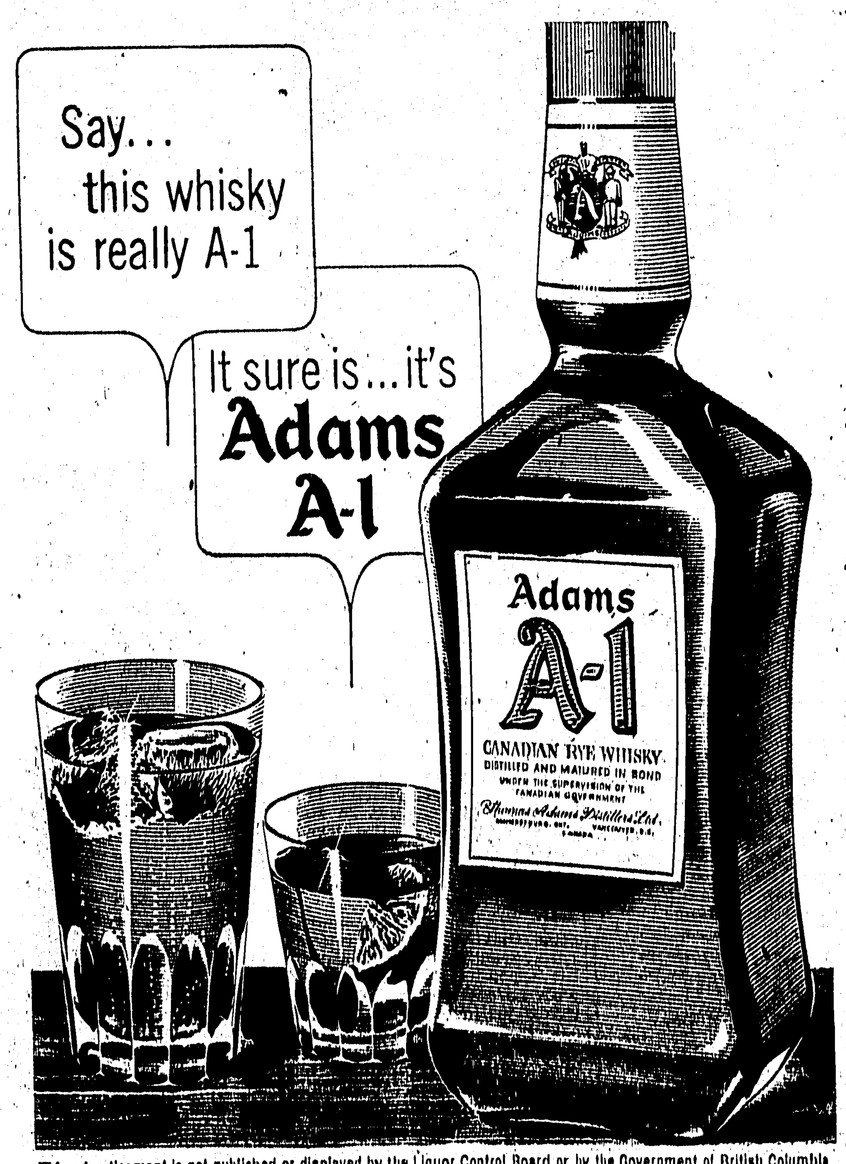

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