1910 — PRINCE RUPERT DAILY NEWS — 1960

An independent newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
A member of The Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulation
Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited.

JOHN F. MAGOR
President

J. R. AYRES
Editor

G. P. WOODSIDE
General Manager

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department Ottawa.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1960

Careless driving law needs reinstating

WE cannot help but agree with The Victoria Colonist when it urges that the careless driving section of the Criminal Code be reinstated. Some time in the near future possibly next month, the Supreme Court of Canada will determine the legality or otherwise of laws against driving which some of the provinces passed after the careless driving section was removed from the Criminal Code. The decision of Canada's highest court will therefore end the uncertainty which has surrounded administration of these provincial laws for several years; but there would appear to be a better way of accomplishing the same purpose.

"That would be," says The Colonist, "to reinstate in the Criminal Code the section which Parliament, perhaps too hastily, dropped from it in the revision of the statute undertaken in 1955. Experience in all or most parts of the country has demonstrated the fact that there is a continuing necessity for the "middle ground" charge of careless driving because the amended code leaves too wide a gap between the major offence of criminal negligence and the minor acts of carelessness which the code recognizes, and which are not punished with the degree of severity sometimes necessary. On the other hand the criminal negligence section is so much more severe in the penalties required by it, that convictions often are impossible to obtain, even though elements of carelessness may be cleverly present.

The Colonist says that the kind of charge which would fill the need would best be written into the national law, rather than being left to the provinces to devise.

"It is inconsistent with the principle of having national laws on driving practices to leave such an hiatus between major and minor offences that the "intermediate" type of offence may go unpunished or be punished ineffectually in relation to the seriousness of what the accused driver has done."

Bomarc shadow boxing

The debate in Parliament and in Congress over the Bomarc B anti-aircraft missile amounts to shadow-boxing in more ways than one. The military value of this weapon is still largely a matter of educated guesswork even as far as the military experts are concerned.

The Bomarc B isn't the first and it won't be the last weapon to go through a costly research and development program, surrounded by grave doubts whether it will do the job for which it is planned. It took 80 tests to get the original Bomarc A into battle condition. Now the same ordeal faces the Bomarc B with its doubled range of 500 miles or more and its solid fuel engine instead of liquid fuel. The burning up of one Bomarc B through malfunction may cost something like the entire research program that produced Leslie Mitchell's incomparable Spitfire, because military hardware lies in the realm of fantastic costs.

Then, of course, there is the squabble over whether there will be a job for the Bomarc B to do, even if it proves to be effective. The Russians are concentrating on long range and intermediate range missiles, and Mr. Khrushchev lately made some snide remarks about old-fashioned bombers. Still, the Russians have a vast bomber fleet, perhaps not as advanced as the machines flown by the USAF and the RAF, but still a formidable weapon that could be used with shattering effect. U.S.-Canadian defence thinking is that this manned bomber threat must be guarded against until it recedes into negligible importance with the development of missiles.

This being said, the fact remains that we in Canada are making ready for a weapon that may never be produced in quantity. The House of Representatives has delayed consideration of new funds for the Bomarc until it can consider a new air force appraisal expected at the end of the month. That doesn't mean the program is going to be cancelled; it means only that it is stalled.

If the Pentagon cannot come up with a convincing interim report on the Bomarc, Congress—which is more concerned right now with getting re-elected—may really dig in its heels and refuse to vote more funds for its development. In this event, there may be a point to a CCF member's suggestion that the Canadian launching sites serve as bandstands for RCAF concerts.

—The Montreal Star.

To let Castro stew

It is good to see that the State Department, despite the most irritating provocation, is continuing to treat Fidel Castro's Cuban regime with restraint. Secretary of State Herter properly scores as "baseless, erroneous, misleading, and irresponsible" Mr. Castro's charges that the U.S. Government was responsible for the explosion of the French munitions ship in Havana harbor, but despite the sneers of Castro's captive television commentators . . . Washington appears determined to let Castro stew in the juice of his own self-defeating irresponsibility.

This seems to us the widest course. The basic insecurity of Castro's position, indeed, is emphasized by his imagined need to inflame Cubans against us. After more than a year of full power, he is still running the island republic without a constitution or any elected representatives of the popular will; he has not made good on his promises of the stable reforms so badly needed in Cuba; he has steadily worsened the island's economic position; he has reduced much of the Cuban press and radio-television industries to the operating level of Pravda and other Soviet equivalents; and the increasing irresponsibility of his public performances, while satisfying enough to any Communist onlookers, is steadily diminishing the respect and good will with which not only most North Americans but most Latin Americans greeted his rise to power after overturning the brutal dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. . . .

Most of our Latin neighbors, unlike Castro, do not forget that it was the U.S. victory over Spain that made Cuba's independence possible—and that we honored our pledge to insure that independence. And they can see near him in the Caribbean the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which of its own will voted to retain a unique tie with the United States, and whose "boot-strap" accomplishments in recent years (not the least of which has been a quadrupling of the per capita income) have been drawing thousands of Latin American visitors.

—Louisville Courier Journal.

Crab grass just grows

Scientists have confirmed what farmers and home gardeners always have known — crab grass will not be discouraged. While pines and other forms of vegetation have succumbed to radiation hazards within a test area, crab grass grows on and on, just as it does in your field or front yard.

These tests may point to a use for the grass. Perhaps within it lurks some property that will make the human race hardier in the face of fall-out.

It now seems possible that the evolutionary cycle may begin all over again, with crab grass as the great-great-great granddaddy of all living things.

—The Atlanta Journal.

POLITICIANS TALK "TOUGH"

U.S. election threatens summit dialogue

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Don't say so out loud, but an old British bogey looms over Prime Minister Macmillan's visit to Washington.

It's the United States election campaign.

British ministers have complained in the past about the palsy that afflicts American policy during the long election preliminaries.

Now Whitehall once more talks of "indecisiveness" in Washington.

The basic clash between London and Washington is that Macmillan, viewing the summit talks seven weeks hence, wants the West to take Russia seriously.

But with the election in November, U.S. officials shudder at the thought of anything resembling a "soft" policy toward the Soviet Union.

♦ ♦ ♦

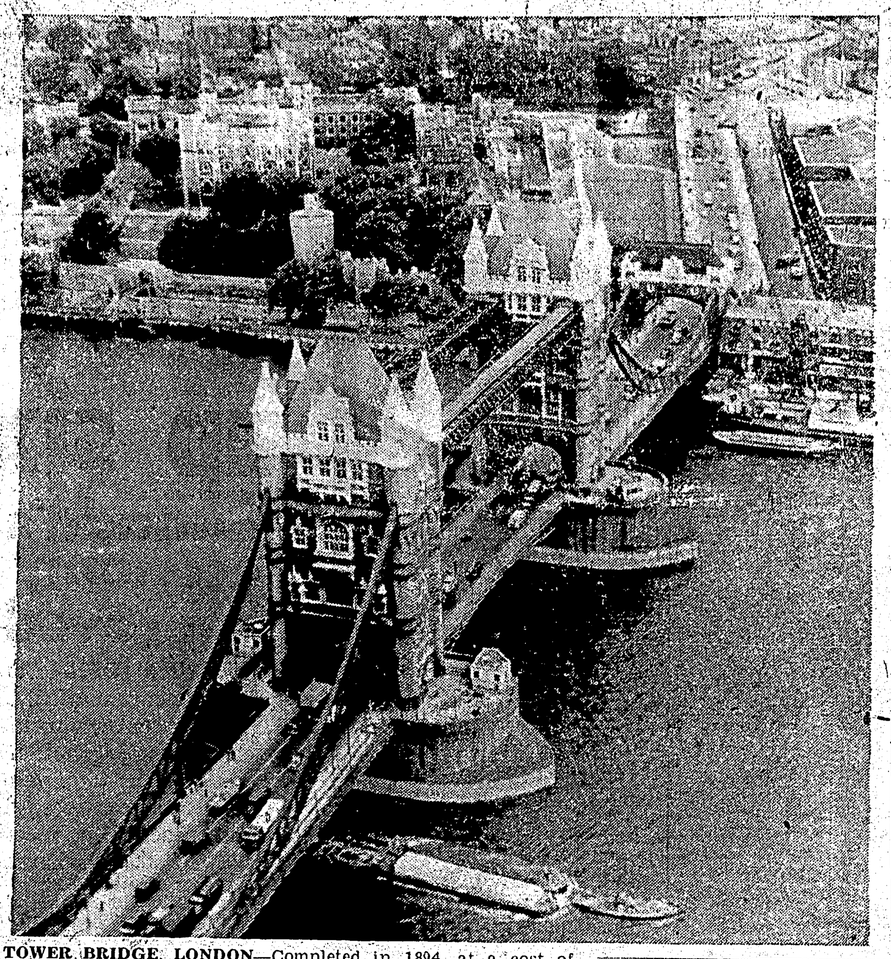
Presidential candidates are jostling to prove how tough they are.

The immediate issue in Washington is the Geneva nuclear tests negotiations. Macmillan thinks a settlement is possible. President Eisenhower is under pressure to oppose any agreement on tests suspension.

When Eisenhower visited London last September, as part of his triumphant world tour, the British prime minister talked to a man who regarded world peace as paramount. Eisenhower appeared highly receptive then to Macmillan's philosophy that something could be achieved by patient, continuing negotiations with Russia.

Out of the Mac-Ike parley came the West's new "diplomacy by dialogue." Today, however, enthusiasm is running low in Washington.

By personal persuasion, Macmillan hopes to recapture the old spirit. In a new U.S. election year, the odds against him seem formidable.



TOWER BRIDGE, LONDON—Completed in 1894, at a cost of over 1,000,000, Tower Bridge, is one of the best-known features of the London scene. The lifting and lowering of the bascules, each weighing over a thousand tons, to allow the passage of ships, takes about five minutes and is performed by hydraulic machinery.
—British Travel Association photo.

Time and Place

By Stan Rough

THE YUKON TELEGRAPH LINE

When gold was discovered in the Klondike, the Dominion Government decided to link up the Yukon territory with the rest of Canada. They followed the trail blazed in the 80's by the Collins Overland Telegraph Company and in 1901 Dawson was linked with Quesnel on the Cariboo Road.

Jim Hodder who lives at Two Mile near Hazelton was for 25 years a linesman and operator on the Yukon telegraph line north of Hazelton. Jim was born in Newfoundland in 1869 and came to B.C. in 1888. After working on a number of jobs he came to the Cariboo in 1899 to work on building the telegraph line. After the line was completed he got a job as a linesman and in his spare time learned the morse code. He was stationed at Buckly Summit for eight years and then was transferred to Cabin 8, 160 miles north of Hazelton.

There were two men to a station on the line and each man had his own cabin. Supplies were brought in each summer by the famous packer Cateline and later by George Beirnes. Each man had his own supplies which consisted of rice, beans, bacon oatmeal, flour, butter, lard, dried fruits, canned mutton, sheeps tongue, corn, tomatoes and peas. Moose, fish and grouse added variety to the larder.

At first the cabins were 20 miles apart and each man had 10 miles of line to maintain. Soon a number of cabins were eliminated and each man was responsible for 20 miles.

Living in separate cabins and cooking their own food eliminated the usual causes of friction when two people are cooped up together for long periods. A lineman received $115 a month and grub every three years he was entitled to a two months holiday with pay, the majority of the men headed for Vancouver or Seattle for their holiday.

Between the main cabins on the line were refuge cabins with a cache of food, blankets and a stove so that a man would not have to camp in the snow in 40 degrees below zero weather.

The job of a lineman was to patrol his section of the line, replace poles that had blown down and repair broken insulators, side blocks and wire. In his pack he carried his grub, pliers, wire, insulators, side blocks and his climbing spikes. Jim Hodder packed an axe but no rifle—but that's another story. Each cabin had a transmitter and every morning the circuit manager at Ashcroft contacted the cabins on the entire line to Atlin to make sure that the line was in operation and that the operators were on the job.

Due to the rugged terrain in places the line poles could not be buried in the ground but were buttressed up with rocks and in many sections the wire was attached to trees. In slide areas the lineman had to rebuild the line after each slide.

The men at the various cabins got along fine and visited when they had some free time. It was the custom for the man who was at the home cabin to have a hot meal ready for his companion when he came home from a hard day patrolling the line. Many of the men had a dog or cat for company and the mail from Hazelton was passed from one lineman to another. Usually each man had a small trapline to augment his income. Cutting wood, washing clothes, baking bread and patrolling made for a very active life. In all his years at Cabins 6 and 8 Jim Hodder never had a Christmas dinner at his own cabin; it always happened he was on the trail.

After a three year stint at Cabin 8 Jim went to Vancouver and bought a little business. A month later he happened to meet J. T. Phalen, the superintendent of the Telegraph Company, on the street. Jim Hodder by this time had had enough of the city and when Phalen said, "How would you like to go back to the Kispiox?" Jim's answer was straight to the point, "As soon as I sell my business." In a week he was heading north.

Jim Hodder was at Cabins 6 and 8 up the Kispiox for twelve years and left the Telegraph Company just before the line was discontinued in the early thirties. He built a pool hall and a number of cabins on the banks of the Skeena at Hazelton. In the big flood of 1936 his land and cabins were swept away. All that saved the pool hall was that a wire cable was attached to it to prevent it going down the river. It now forms part of the Shanghi Cafe in Old Hazelton. At 91 Jim Hodder lives in his log cabin, has his few friends, garden, radio and does his own cooking and housekeeping just as he did years ago on the Yukon Telegraph Line.

"I'm Mr. Smith's wife," said the brunette introducing herself to a lovely blonde at a party.

"I'm his secretary," the blonde replied.

"Oh," the brunette said, arching her eyebrows, "were you?"

A peculiarly hard condition of imprisonment in the American colonial days was the fact that a prisoner often had to pay for his board. Before leaving jail, he or his relatives had to pay these charges. One jail keeper felt particularly outraged because a prisoner escaped owing him a big bill.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

We are now entering the six week season in which a dog's life is hardly worth the living. Many a dog will feel like leaving home between now and next month. In fact many a dog will leave home, whether he likes it or not. He will be given away. He will be, as the saying goes, disposed of.

For even the best-loved of dogs the time of year has come when life becomes filled with feminine screams and shrieks. Brooms will be waved. Feet stamped. Imprecations hurled. Long hours will have to be spent sitting forlorn at back doors outside.

This is the time of slush and mud. Back yards and gardens that have been hygienically solid all winter suddenly collapse into goo six inches deep, beautiful for sloshing in. Bones that were buried last October now begin to exude sweet aromas from the softening earth, begging to be dug up. Rivulets run in every gutter, puddles form on every hand; and how can a dog, however gifted, help throwing a little mud up on his belly as he trots with lively feet amid the imminence of spring?

So when he comes in the house . . .

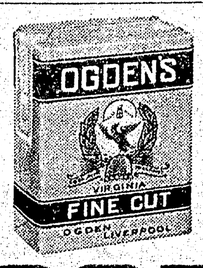
Well, dogs, here's wishing you safe passage for the next few weeks.

• The famous cotton exchange at Liverpool, England, dates back to 1770.

With the classics

This moment yearning and
thoughtful sitting alone,
It seems to me there are other
men in other lands
yearning and thoughtful,
It seems to me I can look over
and behold them in
Germany, Italy, France,
Spain,
Or far, far away in China, or
in Russia or Japan, talking
other dialects,
And it seems to me if I could
know those men I should
become attached to them
As I do to men in my own
lands.
Oh I know we should be
brethren and lovers,
I know I should be happy with
them.
—Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Ah Love! could thou and I
with Fate conspire
To grasp this sorry Scheme
of Things entire,
Would not we shatter it
to bits—and then
Re-mould it nearer to the
Heart's Desire!
—Edward Fitzgerald.



ROLL A REAL SMOKE WITH

OGDEN'S

THE QUALITY CIGARETTE TOBACCO WITH THE DISTINCTIVE FLAVOUR

Each Thursday, Ellen Ramsay visits the bank to pick up the company payroll. On Friday she visits on her own behalf . . . to deposit her savings. On both occasions she receives prompt, personal attention.

In the country, busy insurance man Tom Welch very rarely visits his bank. He does all his banking conveniently by mail. But he gets the same friendly, efficient service.

Requirements may differ but, at The Canadian Bank of Commerce, the service remains constant . . . and as broad and enterprising in concept as Canada itself. Clear across the country, in rural communities and in big urban centres, The Canadian Bank of Commerce serves its many customers with that sincerity which makes banking a pleasure.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

Call us your bankers