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City MLA would make good labor minister

AS THE date for the opening of the 28th session of the British Columbia Legislature approaches, speculation grows as to who will fill the two cabinet posts left vacant by the defeat of Labor Minister Lyle Wicks and Agriculture Minister Newton Steacy. In the Prince Rupert district a great many persons, besides Social Credit adherents, sincerely believe that the best man to head the Department of Labor is MLA-elect William H. Murray. This newspaper heartily endorses the move, already suggested in its editorial columns immediately after the recent provincial election.

Mr. Murray, who has already ably represented this area for one session, is admirably suited for the post of labor minister and is no stranger to discussions on labor for the government, to union-management talks on both sides of the fence. During the last session he was the chairman of the Legislature's special committee on labor. In the past he was provincial vice-president and local president of the Provincial Government Employees Association and when a hotel operator was a spokesman and negotiator for the local hotel association. Apart from labor matters Mr. Murray has shown himself an able debater and orator on issues that he felt were in the best interests of Prince Rupert, the north country and the province. His presentation to the Alaska-British Columbia talks on transportation was a most praiseworthy example of his painstaking efforts to present all the pertinent facts to both governments.

In addition to Mr. Murray's qualifications for the post of labor minister, there is the fact that the northern half of British Columbia has only had one cabinet minister representing it since former lands and forests minister E. P. Kenney retired in 1952. That is Lands and Forests Minister R. G. Williston, MLA for Fort George. Prince Rupert hasn't had a cabinet minister since the days when T. D. Pattullo was first minister of lands and forests and then premier. All of which points up the need of the area north to the Yukon and half way to Prince George for another cabinet minister and who better than our own William H. Murray. We respectfully commend such a move to Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

Museum given national recognition

PRINCE RUPERT'S Centennial Museum of Northern British Columbia was recently described on this page by an irate resident as "that useless museum that nobody wanted anyway."

At the same time, all over Canada and a goodly portion of the United States this month, our museum has been described in an advertisement in two national publications as "a showpiece of Indian, natural history and pioneer relics" taking "the form of a unique pitched, cambered and haunched Indian Long House."

The two advertisements featuring a picture of the museum similar to the one in the adjacent columns on this page, appeared this month in both Time Magazine and The Financial Post, which have a combined circulation of several millions. Both Time's ad and the one in The Financial Post, were two full-page spreads, both dealing with Timber Preservers Limited laminated beams which are a feature of the museum. The script for the ads was written by famous Canadian writer Eric Nicol of Vancouver.

All of which proves that while "a prophet (or museum) is without honor in his own country," millions of Canadians and Americans know that our Centennial museum is "a thing of beauty and joy forever."

A paper dies in Detroit

After 60 years of daily publication, the Detroit Times has fallen victim to high costs of operation. It has closed.

No one likes to see a newspaper cease publication, but the reasons for the demise of the Times are unhappily, well known in newspaper experience on this continent. H. G. Kern, general manager of Hearst Newspapers, who arranged sale of the Times' plant and other assets, to the Detroit News, said: "Publishing costs, including labor, newsprint, equipment and supplies of every nature, have risen far more rapidly than have revenues."

Tremendous changes in newspaper publishing in North America in recent years have been reflected in a reduction of the number of papers. This is far from being a change for the best. Expression of views and the reporting of news tends to be confined within narrower limits, as the number of newspapers declines. Among the large newspapers of Britain, three closed recently despite large circulations. They were Empire News, a Sunday paper; the News-Chronicle a national morning paper; and the Star, a London evening paper.

In terms of size and circulation area, Detroit is more than twice as big as metropolitan Toronto. It is now left with two daily newspapers, the morning Free Press and the evening News. They are fiercely competitive and each accepts the obligation to serve the community with honest news and as a forum for conflicting viewpoints.

Toronto is not as large a city as Detroit, but it is the foremost newspaper centre in Canada. It sustains three independent newspapers, all of them dissagreeing most of the time on most subjects. This is a situation that serves the best interest of the people of Toronto and their city, and it is one that continue for many years.

— The Toronto Telegram

Lady Chatterley for all

Lady Chatterley is a good girl after all. And the famous gamekeeper who became perhaps the world's most controversial lover is a good boy. A jury of nine men and three women in the Old Bailey, after a trial that had Britain by the ears, has ruled that D. H. Lawrence wrote a non-prurient and beautiful book, and the publishers will now flood Britain with a paperback edition of the unexpurgated work.

What will interest Canadian educators and literary critics is the variety and esteem of the long list of defenders of the book who went into court to defend both book and author the Bishop of Woolwick, father of four, was one. A 60-year-old classics mistress at a girl's school was another. She said the book had "considerable merit" if read by girls at the proper time which she judged to be 17 years of age.

A senior lecturer at a university considered the book very educative. "It makes you consider your relationship to society and asks you to question your place in it." The witness also thought there was a "comparable spirit" to Milton's "Paradise Lost".

While D. H. Lawrence was receiving a weight of commendation for what is probably the most controversial book of all time, other publications which have never aroused the ire of the censors suffered a hail of abuse.

Psychologists and educators followed one another into the Old Bailey witness box with allegations of "the insinuation of shallow and corrupting values with regard to sex relationships" in these books.

One witness said: "They put before the young girl that if she has the right proportions, wears the right clothes, uses the right cosmetics, she will become irresistible to men and this is the supreme achievement. . . ."

Many will feel that this was by no means a test case of obscenity in print. "Lady Chatterley's Lover" is unique, a fact that was confirmed by the procession of eminent defenders of the book, like Dame Rebecca West, who appared in the case.

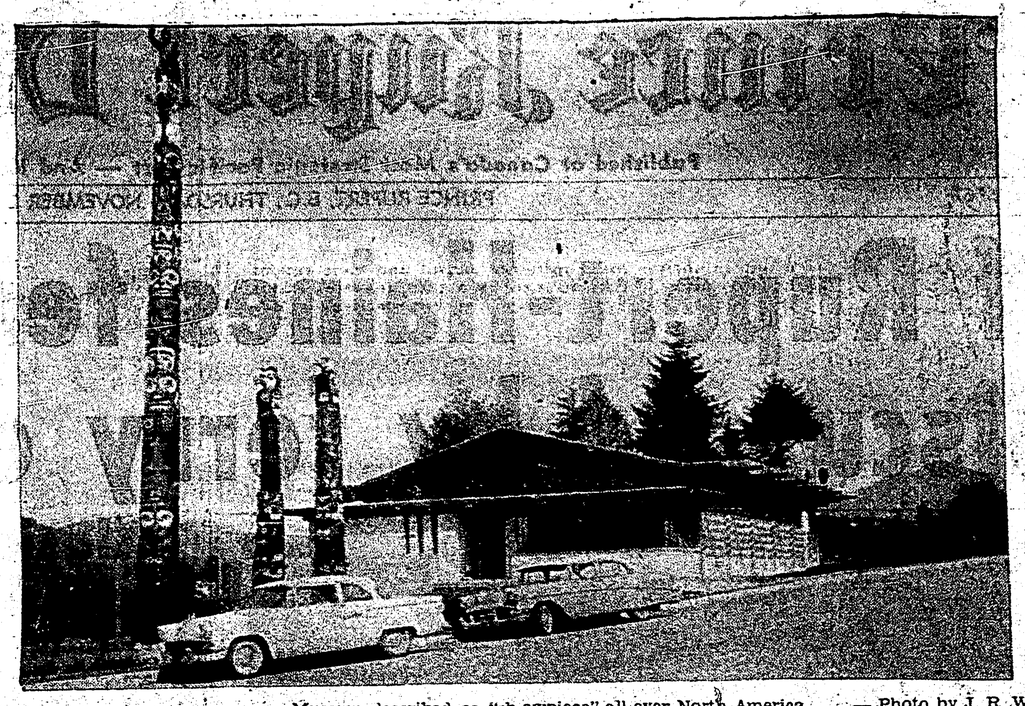
The problem of salacious literature and its control is therefore by no means solved. What a British jury has done is to say that the unprecedented use of earthy language in a work of art is permissible and in fact "unavoidable", as one elderly and respected witness put it.

— The Vancouver Province

A Bible Thought for Today

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Matt. 5:7.

We are rewarded in two lives.



Museum described as "sh owpiece" all over North America — Photo by J. R. Wrathall

LETTER BOX

Gravity water plan $1,200,000 more than pumping system over 20 years

The Editor,
The Daily News:

I am grateful to the people of Prince Rupert for the privilege of serving them as an Alderman on the City Council for the past six years. In respect to the contentious "Water upply By-Law" that will be presented for voting at our December elections I would like to present a few thoughts on the matter that may be of interest to the taxpayers.

First: I do not think anyone will doubt the fact that it is absolutely essential that our water supply be assured. No one can argue that we can do without water either for ourselves—domestic, or for our giant industry that is the actual backbone of the city—the fishing industry. Therefore in casting our ballot we must be in favor of rehabilitating our supply line.

Second: Your City Council has acted to the best of its ability in employing the best engineering brains to advise them. There is not one of us on city council who is an hydraulic engineer and I doubt if there is one in the city. We therefore, employed the Associated Engineers for this work. The problem presented was simply this: How can we best supply the city with an adequate supply of water that is within our means and ability to pay.

In theory—a simple pure gravity system was ideal. This would take nothing less than a 36-inch steel line from Woodworth lake to our reservoirs. Practically—this would cost roughly $3,500,000 maybe $4,000,000. It was so huge an amount that when the interest charges were added it would almost double this amount to make both beyond the capacity of the peple to pay and way and beyond the borrowing powers of the City which are definitely limited by the Municipal Act. Therefore we had to limit our borrowing according to our ability to pay—a simple business procedure.

Our engineers prepared the only two possible and workable plans.

PLAN 1. Combination Pumping and Gravity from Woodworth Lake.

As the heading implies—this is a combination of gravity and pumping from the present dam owned by the Northern B.C. Power Company at Woodworth Lake. The electric pumps will increase the pressure in the lines up to a point that the line will deliver an adequate quantity of water. This system is estimated to cost $1,565,000 in principal and the interest charges thereon over a 20 year period would amount to $1,252,000 making a total of $2,817,000. We cannot finance over longer periods because of the Municipal Act controls, this states a loan cannot be financed for more than 20 years. This sum gives us an average annual repayment of the staggering sum of $140,850. Let me assure you that this is not the total costs of our water—we must remember that we have to keep up our usual repairs and maintenance of all the water lines within the city right up to your property lines. Pipe lines are eternally wearing out—or become too small for the load they are now asked to carry, they will freeze in some instances in the winter and due to ground sagging they will break. This job costs annually approximately $45,000 so that we now arrive at a sum of $185,850 per year average annual costs. Do you feel as a taxpayer that you can afford this particular type of water installation? All of us would have to share in bearing this burden together with the fishing industry that consumes huge quantities of water. Would we not be adding to our own heavy load and increasing the costs of the fishing industry beyond its economic limits?

PLAN 2 Pumping Directly from Shawatlan Lake:

This is a system that would deliver to the City an equal quantity of water as in the above system by using a simple pumping system operated by automatic electric pumps fully integrated with our present chlorination and fluoridation scheme, from Shawatlans Lake. This is estimated to cost $900,000 and added to this would be approximately $720,000 in interest. A total of $1,620,000 to be repaid over 20 years which amounts to on an average $81,000. We must again add to this our maintenance and repair costs within the City of $45,000 making a total of $126,000 per year.

The difference in cost between the two proposed systems would therefore be approximately $60,000 a year in favor of the plan for direct pumping from Shawatlan Lake. Over the 20 year period we would pay out $1,200,000 in excess of that which is required. I can't see one particle of benefit to the city from the gravity and pumping plan, as it delivers no more water and is, I repeat, $1,200,000 more expensive. It therefore behooves the taxpayers to consider this problem in all seriousness. For my money and I trust for the taxpayers the plan for pumping our water direct from Shawatlan Lake to the city is the only sale and economic plan to use.

A. D. Ritchie,
Prince Rupert.

Exit the 'mick'

From the
Kingston-Whig Standard

The sailor's hammock has finally been pensioned off and hundreds of "matelots" who served in the Second World War will echo "and not before they were due."

There may be some old naval hands who will swear by the hammock or "micks," but there are just as many of them who will swear at them.

Hundreds of cadets and embryo sailors have persevered with the pesky sleping contraptions mainly because they knew they had no choice in the matter. It was a case of sleeping in them or staying awake in them. Many veterans of the sea have manfully sworn that it is the only way to sleep, that they "never slept so well as they did in the old 'micks and never will again."

Many hundreds more had no use for the "swinging things" and seldom hesitated to say so. These are the people who will be most gratified by the present changes even though they may feel they came 20 years too late."

The Royal Canadian Navy started installing bunks in 1947 and now hammocks are used only in three tribal class destroyers. These ships will be replaced in a few years. The Royal Navy began converting to bunks in 1958. The aircraft carrier Victorious was the first large British warship for nearly 300 years to have no hammocks.

It is suggested that bunks do not compensate for the roll of the ship the way hammocks did. It is quite probable that modern sailors are able to get along without this advantage."

What must hurt the old salts most is the ignominious end dreamed up for surplus hammocks. They are folded and sewn up the sides to make bags for dirty clothes and mail.

The lighter side

The pretty young nurse and her doctor fiance had just broken their engagement and she was telling her friend about it.

"Do you mean to say," exclaimed her friend, "he actually asked you to give back all his presents?"

"Not only that," sniffed the young RN, "he sent me a bill for 36 visits."

The jury filed into the box, their faces clearly showing the strain they had been through. In clear tones the foreman faced the judge. "We find the defendant 'Not Guilty,' " he said.

There was a sudden babble in the courtroom. Then the red-faced judge pounded the gavel. "Silence," he called. Then to the foreman, "Will you please explain on what grounds you find this man innocent—in spite of every evidence of his guilt."

"On the grounds of insanity, Your Honor!"

"Insanity?" replied the judge, "All 12 of you?"

With the classics

Out of eternity
This new day is born;
Into eternity,
At night, will return.
Behold it aforetime
No eye ever did:
So soon it forever
From all eyes is hid.
Here hath been dawning
Another blue day.
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away?

—Thomas Carlyle.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

A reader in Saskatchewan writes to say The Packsack does not seem to understand that there are vast numbers of people in this country who are lonely both night and day to whom the sound of a human voice in their house is a blessing.

The Packsack has been bewailing what is called the "unremitting yak of the human voice in this electronic age," and advanced the idea that radio, in competition with TV, should go in for more music restful music, uncontaminated with vocal sound.

"My mother before me," writes the correspondent, "was a lonely woman too, married to an inarticulate man who was without ideas or enthusiasm for any subject. How she passed her days and nights without the solace of radio I cannot imagine. What radio has meant for me, entertainment at all levels including classical music, news of the world at any hour of the day or night, ideas, ideas pouring out from speakers both famous and obscure, challenges, provocation, argument and limitless information — all these have, literally transfigured life for me, and I am sure for countless others whom, life had penned up in some little cell of domesticity where nothing was heard the long day through but the beating of their own hearts."

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