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School space lags behind population boost

District 52 School Board appears to have been caught short . . . short of rooms and teachers, that is. The early enrolment figures indicate that at a minimum the enrolment was 64 pupils higher than was anticipated and the latecomers could boost the margin of error up to 80. With classroom space already at a premium, the unexpected increase means at least three or four new classrooms are needed now, with more necessary by September, 1962.

As it is, the lunchrooms in both Booth Memorial High school and the Prince Rupert Senior High school will have to serve as classrooms. In addition there is an unexpected increase in students at King Edward school and at Seal Cove. Once again shifting of school boundaries and students will be necessary.

It is not that the school board did not see this coming. It did, and an investigation by a department of education official, along the lines of the Plenderleith report of a few years ago, is expected to give the board a clear picture of what is needed in the future. However, with yesterday's enrolment report, it would seem as though it is a case of shutting the barn door after the horse is stolen.

As we recall, before school closed in June, the various principals gave fairly comprehensive forecasts of the number of students expected this fall. They are able to do this because they are close to the families in their district, they know the size of the families, and what children have brothers and sisters approaching school age. Someone, either members of the board or the superintendent of schools must have scaled these figures down, because up until school closed the board was optimistic that the school district would be able to squeeze by for this year while money bylaws for extra classrooms were being placed before the electorate this December.

Two things are evident at this point. First, overcrowding and large classes will hamper teachers in their efforts to teach adequately, and, secondly, when the board does present its bylaws for more classroom space and schools, it had better ensure that it over estimates its needs for new schools rather than have the same situation crop up a couple of years from now. The population explosion, even in Prince Rupert, has reached the stage where it is outpacing the time between voting on school money bylaws and the erection and occupation of the schools.

The New Canadians

Immigrants are good for Canada, and Canada is good for immigrants. This is the general conclusion which can be drawn from an economic and social survey conducted by the department of immigration and citizenship.

The survey was limited to immigrants applying for citizenship in Toronto and Montreal and to British subjects applying for citizenship throughout Ontario and Quebec in 1959. The total number of applicants as 6,969. The results of the survey, therefore, may not be entirely conclusive, as the sample was small and conditions may vary in other parts of the country, but there is no reason to think that it is far from presenting an accurate national picture.

Given this slight reservation, it can be said that the survey discovered some encouraging — even surprising — facts about the quality of Canada's new citizens. The average level of education among the applicants for citizenship, for example, was slightly higher than that of the urban population of Ontario and Quebec. When apprenticeships, which are common in Europe but not in Canada, were taken into account as part of education, the newcomers had a considerably higher level of education than the natives. During their first year of residence in this country—presumably a period of adjustment and settling in — the applicants earned about one-third less than a comparable group of Canadians. But they rapidly made up the difference — increasing their earnings at what the survey calls a "phenomenal" rate — and by the last year of residence before applying for citizenship were drawing about the same incomes as Canadians.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the newcomers appear to have had little difficulty in finding and holding jobs. About 95 per cent found jobs within three months of landing, and they tended to stay with one employer much longer than the average Canadian. Whereas 55 per cent of the Canadian labor force changes jobs over a year, only 31 per cent of the applicants changed in a year.

If the newcomers served their employers well, they also did well for themselves. When they became citizens, almost three times as many of them were managers as had been in such positions in their countries of origin. About 5 pre cent of the applicants had become employers, providing work for 3,070 persons — or about half the number of immigrants in the survey.

These facts and figures give the lie, once again, to the dangerous idea that immigrants create unemployment. They show that immigrants bring valuable skills and enterprise to help in the development of Canada.

— The Toronto Globe and Mail

Can courtesy survive?

One of the few places where the cordial old courtesies are still practised is on Canada's inland waterways. An old skiff with a beat-up outboard doesn't pass a 50-ft. luxury cruiser without their respective captains exchanging a genial wave of the hand.

When an amateur skipper fouls his line negotiating a tricky lock, few sound an impatient horn. At dockside, when the cruisers put in to spend the night, complete strangers are likely to fraternize, swap gossip and oddments of marine know-how and perhaps share a convivial cup.

There was a time in the early days of motor-car travel when the same camaraderie prevailed. No cars whipped by a helpless damsel struggling to change a wheel. The sound of the klaxon might be raised in fright but never in protest or anger.

It is true that many of our lakes are now made hideous by the roar of overcharged outboards driven by underdeveloped kids. But it is devoutly to be hoped that the surge of enthusiasm for boating will not completely kill the cordiality and consideration that does exist still on our waterways. — The Financial Post

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

International law must curb world tensions

By DAVE OANCIA
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The uncommitted nations could hardly have picked a better — or worse — time to use their influence to move international relations out of the gunloting stage.

It should only be a matter of weeks before the results of their appeals become apparent. The prospects are hardly encouraging.

The Soviet Union this week exploded its third nuclear device. It has so far given no indication of easing the pressure on — as Prime Minister Diefenbaker called it — "the neutralgic point" of Berlin.

It was against this background that the 25 nations meeting in Belgrade put the finishing touches on messages to Premier Khrushchev and President Kennedy pleading with them to reduce the danger of nuclear war over Berlin.

Their appeal essentially will be that the East-West tensions should be subject to the rule of international law.

Peace between the major powers now is precariously based on a balance of terror backed by nuclear weapons capable of wiping out the largest cities with a single blow.

It's an uneasy peace comparable to the gunpoint justice of the Wild West. Then the most powerful, the quickest on the draw and the most ruthless made the rules that often took advantage of their weaker brethren.

It was a gradual process, but in the West, when the law officers took over, the weapons were put away. A society was developed in which the strong and the weak were made equal before the law.

This goal is the hope for the world expressed in the final sessions of the Belgrade conference.

In his Winnipeg speech last week, Prime Minister Diefenbaker observed that the true expression of legal experience is that the framework of freedom and security is firmly laid nationally when law operates to tame power and maintain justice.

"It could be equally true internationally if nations could agree to settle disputes by the arbitration of law," he said.

A Bible Thought for Today

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden. Gen. 2:8.

Eden was a province in Sumer whence Abraham came. Doubtless ABRAHAM brought about the legend with him. We are not too much concerned with the letter of the legend, but the lesson is eternal. We must trust and obey God.

PHOTOS TAKEN by Angus Macphee, president of Local 708 of the International Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, during his visit last month to Cuba show a worker's new home, at left, on a Cuban state farm. Building in picture at right, called a bohio, was the worker's former home. Hut has been left standing near new home to show contrast.

CANADIAN VIEW

Millions of Cubans resolved to die for new-found freedom

This is the first article of two written for The Daily News by Angus Macphee, president of Local 708 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, dealing with his recent two-week visit to Cuba. Mr. Macphee was invited to Cuba as a member of a British Columbia trades union delegation.

By ANGUS MACPHEE

It is almost three years since Canadians first heard the news that someone named Fidel Castro had overthrown the Batista dictatorship of Cuba.

Most Canadians had heard of Batista and knew something of his tyrannous rule over a largely starving population. We welcomed the news accepting the change for an improvement in a strife-torn world; and if we thought about Cuba's future at all it was to believe that there would be little more about it for some time.

In a very concrete way we reacted like a substantial section of the American capitalistic class by whose press we are conditioned. They reasoned that with Castro's well-to-do background he was probably another in a long line of Latin - American reformers. They hoped and expected that his reforms would cost no more than the graft and protection money exacted by Batista's political and military machine. Everything would soon be back to normal.

IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

However, everything is still far from normal and the small island is still very much in the news. It has become a focus of the international ideological struggle. It is a fact that there is a genuine revolution in Cuba, politically, economically and culturally. American business realized this immediately the agrarian reform was instituted and a large source of their profits was estranged.

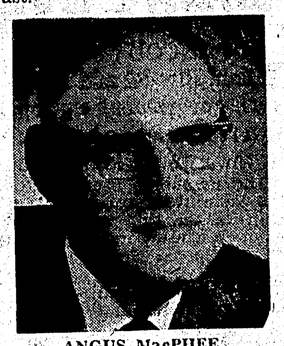
And now the world is slowly but surely getting around to the working people of both the United States and Canada. A substantial number of left-wing and independent papers are printing the facts. A growing number of journalists, intellectuals, students and trade unionists have been journeying to Cuba to see for themselves, and in the main verifying the identity of what the Cubans proclaim as the "first Socialist Revolution in America."

I had given some thought to a possible visit and the fact that my trip in July was sudden and unexpected did nothing to dampen my anticipation. I was invited by a Cuban government agency "Institute for Friendship with All People." It was extended via a brother trade unionist in the Oil Workers who is secretary of a group interested in vacationing in Cuba in September. He was asked to organize a delegation of British Columbia trade unionists. Notice was short and I consider myself fortunate to have been available at the time.

Two weeks of course hardly qualifies me as an expert. There is much I did not see and many questions could not be answered. However, in that time I was able to visit quite a number of places and talk with people of various occupations, professional to unskilled, both Cuban and foreign.

NO RETURN

After but one day, July 26, the eighth anniversary of the assault on Moncada fortress by Fidel Castro's small movement of 1953, I have no hesitation in saying that there will be no return to capitalism by use of forces in or out of Cuba. No limited invasion can overthrow its government. An attack, which could only be launched by the U.S., of sufficient strength to defeat the Cuban people could do no less than mark the beginning of the end of that country's domination of Latin and South America. There are literally millions of Cubans resolved to give their lives in defence of their new found freedom and the future it promises.



ANGUS MacPHEE . . . talked with Cubans

A visitor to Havana can still live in a plush hotel, gamble in the still crowded casino, spend an evening at the ballet, the fronton, the dog races or a night club. He can swim at beautiful beaches or in luxurious pools and obtain excellent service. Imported food may not be as plentiful, tourist shops have less stock and the obsequious waiter or bell hop is a vanishing breed. But in general a tourist may be able to disregard the revolution.

FRIENDLY, OBLIGING

He will be as free to visit the places of interest as a tourist to Canada. The people are friendly and the uniformed voluntary militia, courteous and obliging. An American may find the people reserved at first, wondering about him, and then carefully explaining that they like Americans but why don't they do something about their government.

This is because many of them believed that America would help them after the fall of Batista. A Canadian visitor will find his reception will be an extremely cordial one; but embarrassing too if he remembers that Canadian papers have also told little of the truth and that the Canadian government has not extended all the trade that it could.

The military revolution within Cuba is over and no one I met, who had fought in the Sierra Maestra mountains with the July 26 movement, seemed interested in discussing it. It is a revolution of young people and their interest lies in organization and construction. It is a war against unemployment (considered more important than even the raising of living standards, though inseparable), against illiteracy and disease, against untilled soil and virgin forest. It is a war against waste and inefficiency, against gambling and racketeering, and against prejudice if that still exists to any appreciable degree.

VIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Inexperience and the magnitude of the task necessarily mean a certain amount of inefficiency and we had some difficulty on occasions in making arrangements that would make full use of our time. However, we were encouraged to view the accomplishments of the last two years and to ask questions. Despite the language difficulties, with or without an interpreter, we were generally able to obtain satisfactory answers.

To be continued.

The lighter side

Seems a Victoria resident applied to his bank for a loan so that he could take a six-month trip abroad. He was turned down.

Nothing daunted, he went to another bank, applied, and was given the amount he sought.

The last thing he did before leaving was to buy a large fish which he wrapped loosely, took it into the bank which had refused him the loan, and locked it safely in his safety deposit box.

♦ ♦ ♦

A jeweller's assistant, an absent-minded fellow, was being married. He was presenting the bride with the ring when he hesitated.

"With this ring," prompted the minister.

"With this ring," answered the bridegroom, "we give a written guarantee reminding the customer that the price will be refunded if it is not as represented."

With the classics

The trumpet's loud clangor
Excites us to arms,
With shrill notes of anger
And mortal alarms.
The double double double beat
Of the thundering drum
Cries—'Hark! the foes come!
Charge, charge, 'tis too late
to retreat."

—John Dryden.

Teach children early self-government, and teach them nothing that is wrong.—Mary Baker Eddy.

♦ ♦ ♦

The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself.—Bulwer.

♦ ♦ ♦

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.—Henry Adams.

ADVERTISING IN THE NEWS BRINGS RESULTS

LETTERBOX

FERRY FARE EXORBITANT

The Editor,
The Daily News:

Having spent most of my life in North Vancouver I was surprised and delighted to discover one of the old North Vancouver ferries in Prince Rupert harbor.

Wishing to take a sentimental journey on this ferry, I inquired of the captain the price of a passage from the Canadian National Railways wharf to Digby Island and back. Needless to say, I felt that I could not afford the round-trip fare of $5 that the captain quoted me. The price is truly exorbitant.

May I point out that a daily return fare between Vancouver and Nanaimo via the Canadian Pacific Railways can be purchased in the summer months for $2.50, the cost of a one-way ride to Digby Island. A more "local" 30-minute ferry ride between Nanaimo and Gabriola Island costs 35 cents return.

I can only hope that I may sometime be able to take a more reasonably - priced journey on the ferry that was once known to offer "the best 10-cent ride in the world."

Peter MacNair,
North Vancouver, B.C.

APPRECIATION

The Editor,
The Daily News:

I have been instructed by the Parks Commission to write you expressing its appreciation for the favorable mention made in a recent editorial in your paper.

The editorial dealt with the accomplishments of the Parks Commission during the past year with respect to gardens which have been maintained by the Commission.

It is very gratifying to the Commission to receive this publicity and to draw attention of the general public to the efforts the Parks Commission is making to beautify Prince Rupert.

B. F. Sinclair,
Secretary,
Prince Rupert Parks Commission.

THE FORGOTTEN CITY

The Editor,
The Daily News:

After driving around in British Columbia and Alberta for a couple of weeks, I am back in Prince Rupert.

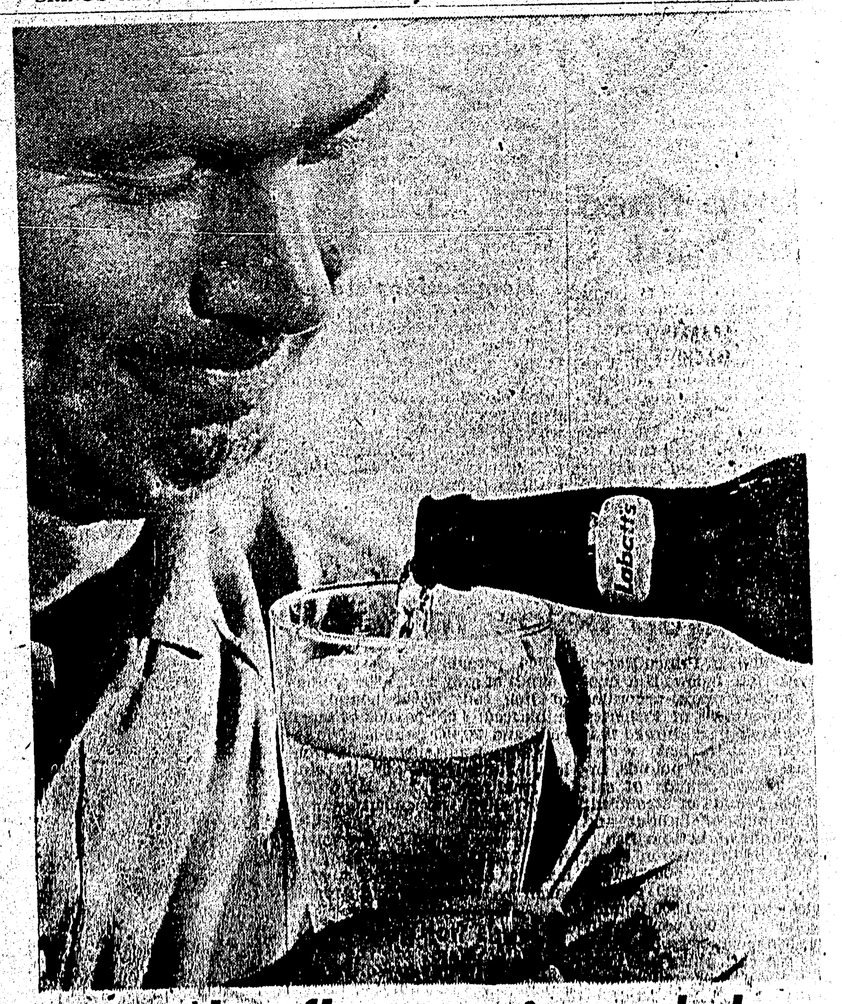
I wonder why, all over B.C. there are fine roads, some blacktopped, some hardtopped, a few very good gravel roads, well-graded and so on, whereas Prince Rupert has only one highway, which up to Galloway Rapids has been patched in the worst way, so-called "Phil-topped."

Why don't we invite "the strong man" to try one of his 80-mile-an-hour stunts on this part of Highway 16?

"Disgusted Taxpayer,"
Prince Rupert.

That scholarship which consists in the memorization of facts does not qualify one to be a teacher.—Confucius.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Signed articles and editorials credited to other newspapers do not necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.



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