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## Coalition Quivers

THE DEFEAT of Gordon Wismer by only eight votes for the leadership of the Liberal party in British Columbia may yet prove what classicists call a pyrrhic victory for Byron Johnson, meaning one won at too great a cost.

While Mr. Johnson was a coalitionist, his chief supporters were strongly against coalition. On the other hand, the mover of Mr. Wismer's nomination and Mr. Wismer himself were both strong supporters of coalition.

Yet some metropolitan newspapers were editorializing to the effect that Johnson's victory ensured a continuance of coalition. The current situation in the cabinet at Victoria would indicate that coalition is close to the rocks unless Mr. Johnson sacrifices some Liberal prestige in the cabinet.

It now appears that Mr. Anscomb has been placed into a position of holding the key to the coalition executive chamber. He can, if he wants to, insist either on the fulfilment of the demand of the Progressive-Conservative executive that he become Premier or that the Liberal Premier be accepted subject to an equal number of Conservative and Liberal ministers as his price of retaining a coalition government.

Mr. Johnson will now be on the horns of a dilemma. Should he accede to the latter request, which we presume is the one that will be pressed by Mr. Anscomb, he will be deserting his friends who were for a more vigorous Liberal cabinet and organization. They will hardly support a reduction of Liberals in the cabinet in order to maintain coalition which they hope soon to destroy.

Should Mr. Anscomb, therefore, press for equal representation of Conservatives in the cabinet, Mr. Johnson must either accept this situation at the risk of losing his own Liberal supporters or defy Mr. Anscomb and form a cabinet of Liberals.

This is the course he will most likely follow in our opinion if he is as astute as a good leader ought to be. He will then satisfy his "wee free" straight Liberal supporters who put him in as leader, build up his Liberal organization and carry on until such time as he considers it necessary to go to the country. Before doing so, however, he will be compelled to unite the Wismer forces of Liberalism into a compact Liberal party.

All this, however, will be at the price of coalition which would end, although, following a general election, could be re-established.

The current situation is definitely making political history in British Columbia.

tools for Christmas, birthday and on other occasions for some time now," explained a clothing merchant on a visit to one hardware store. "Now I have a complete set—and no longer have I any excuse for not doing odd jobs about the house."

Of course sporting goods are big sellers for Christmas. Some local stores have full stocks of skis, skates, badminton racquets and supplies. And there are a few .22 calibre rifles around. Fishin' reels and rods are obtainable at the moment at old prices—but they are due to jump substantially any day.

Flashlights and pocket knives for Junior are still in fair supply but bicycles and tricycles are on the extremely short list.

Persons living out of town may rest easier as gas irons, gas lamp and lanterns are over the

hump and are now easy to obtain.

In the radio line, you will find a few console models and the stock of mantel models is fair.

### OLD PRICES HOLDING TILL STOCKS DEPLETED

Electrical store men sound the warning that import quotas and new taxes will boost prices on their articles shortly. Of course the old prices are holding until present stocks are depleted, which will not be long.

What will this mean? For the most part the increases in price will be 12½ to 25 per cent on over-all prices. Radios will come in at 15 per cent above old levels.

Record players and records are growing in popularity as the demand for radios drops off.

"We still have some of what-ever is wanted," an electrical store merchant said but warned that articles were going fast.

Electrical stores are featuring electric razors, reading lamps, trillites, ultra-violet lamps, electric cigarette lighters, curling irons, hotplates and electric radios.

### TREND IN FURNITURE IS TOWARD CHROME

In the furniture line, the big trend is toward chrome, but here again the supply is short. However, if you act promptly you will still have a choice of attractive chairs, bed sofas and smart folding kitchen nook sets that are just the thing for small rooms.

While chesterfield suites continue to hold favor, many householders are showing a preference for large easy chairs like the new type recliner—rockers with matching ottomans.

Talk to any furniture man in town and his advice is this: "Get your furniture now," he will tell you. "Most lines are short and articles will cost more in the near future. Take advantage of present prices. Don't wait till the new furniture arrives bearing the new higher taxes."

Here are a few ideas for gifts to brighten the home at Christmas. Cushions are enjoying a good run, as are smoking stands, trillites, table lamps, new types of hassocks, plate glass mirrors, vases, pictures and bed throws. Torchier lamp is gaining a lead over trillites at the moment.

The conclusion is simply this: Buy now! Don't wait and pay more for the same article.

"So that is the chaplain of the Senate. He prays for the Senate, I suppose."

"No, he just looks at the Senate, and prays for the country."

"Don't you love a beautiful night like this?"

"Yeah, but I usually wait 'til we're a little farther from town."

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## Reminiscences By W.I. and Reflections

One sometimes wonders what-or, finally to go trailing off across the bay. We went up to a red painted hotel on the nearest hillside. It was called the Premier. The lobby was thronged with nearly everybody talking about "snaps" or in other words, real estate. Fred Henning, the clerk, inquired if I had come up to work for the Bank of—No, he hadn't. It must have been the brown Christie stiff or else Fred had a hunch. At any rate he was wrong.

It was aboard the Princess May that we came north from Seattle, and the longer the voyage, the more interesting. There was plenty to see and cultivating chance acquaintances was easier than it had been in other parts of the west. Times were active. The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific fair in Seattle had opened and Prince Rupert was looming large in the public eye. Queen Charlotte Sound was feeling good, as well, and the gaily little Princess May never quailed. Sometimes they say a touch of seasickness is healthy for one.

Up on the breezy deck we were pondering the truth or falsity of this, when a tall, grinning stranger came over and bent close enough to reveal that his gusty breath was full of alcohol fumes.

"I-I know how you feel," he hiccupped. "You feel like thirty cents."

The chief recreation at Prince Rupert was to go down and see the boat come in. The Princess May found the dock crowded.

The voice of that Prince of barkers, the late Harry Evans, sounded above the general clam-

A sweet young thing told the butcher she belonged to the Nodding Club.

"What's that?" he asked.

"Nodding doing."

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E. Velva Bath Mit, Ardena Bath Oil, June Geranium Soap... 3.50

ORMES DRUGS



## How much life insurance should you own?

This is a difficult question for you to answer because it immediately raises many other questions:

What are your family responsibilities? Will you have a retiring allowance? How old are you? What is your present income?

These and many other factors must be taken into account. And to make a wise decision you need expert advice.

You can get that advice from your life insurance agent. He is trained to analyze all the facts that apply to your case. Then he can suggest a plan that is suited to your particular financial needs.

Don't hesitate to call your agent today. He'll be glad to assist you.

A message from the Life Insurance Companies in Canada and their agents.

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L-447/C