

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Adios, Alberta

CALGARY, Alberta—Instead of flying home to Vancouver, here I am in a Calgary hotel waiting for a friendly couple who are going to drive me to Radium Hot Springs.

The minister's wife had a broken foot, which was just about to come out of its cast. They were bound for Banff, but I told them Radium, B.C., had Banff backed off the map fifty different ways when it comes to healing waters.

The upshot is they are taking me along to show them.

HERE in the hotel I get a chance to look over the final results of the Olympic games.

No matter how you look at it, Russia's feat in coming second in the games—in spite of the fact that she had never competed since 1912, and then only in a few events—is a milestone in athletic history.

The two giants, the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., go about athletic training much like Henry Ford III goes about producing cars. The whole thing is planned on a mass production and long time basis.

Let us in Canada not kid ourselves. If we intend to make a good competitive showing in future games we too will have to go to our athletics a good deal more systematically than we have in the past.

WHY ARE our best young athletes going right from high schools up here down to American universities? One of the best athletic coaches in B.C. tells me it is not simply because American universities offer what are now called "athletic scholarships." In fact, he thinks the scholarships are definitely secondary to another factor.

The U.S. institutions offer athletes the best there is in the way of systematic training. A young kid may be a good swimmer, sprinter, jumper or any other kind of athlete. If he stays here in Canada he may or may not develop into a champ. But if he does it will be more because of sheer natural physical superiority than because his training has brought out the best in him.

Take swimming. In one city, which, out of loyalty, I will not name, at least while I am away from home the coaches try to develop high school swimmers while youngsters of all ages, and under no control, are diving in all over the pool, and not even giving the would-be champs a clear period, for training.

HAVE YOU ever seen a farm without a barn? No? Then you should come to Alberta where some of the finest farms, and biggest earners, are tearing down their barns!

What the farm now needs is a sort of workshop—combination garage, power house and machine on a smaller scale.

One good farmer near here sold his old barn to the local town curling rink. They were going to use the material to line their building, before insulation. But meantime the farmer needed a place to dry out his damp grain. The old barn is it.

THE ELEVATORS are chuck full now with the 1951 crop and there is bound to be an even worse congestion than last year when the new crop begins to pour in. All indications are the crop will be excellent.

One hard-headed farmer gives one hard-headed explanation. It is not the fault of the railways, he says. Farmers used to feed one third of their crop to their own animals. Now, with the replacement of the horse by the tractor, on most farms, one third more of the total crop has to be shipped out.

THEY are cutting too many trees down in Alberta to make more farm land. I see with my own eyes what I saw up in Saskatchewan in the early thirties—slaughter of woodlots—penny wise and pound foolish. No wonder their lake levels are falling.

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Prince Rupert Daily News
Thursday, August 14, 1952

Last Rites Held For Churchworker

Funeral was held this afternoon of a city pioneer who was well known for her part in community work. Services for Mrs. Robert Wilson, 1143 Ambrose Avenue, were held from First United Church, the Rev. L. G. Sieber officiating.

Mrs. Wilson, who was 72, died last Friday. She was for several years organist of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Port Arthur, Ontario, before coming here 32 years ago, and later was pianist for the East United Church here. She was active in ladies' aid and church work and during World War Two knitted baby layettes for both the Red Cross and the IODE.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Wilson is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Sidney (Jean) Elkins, Prince Rupert, and Mrs. E. C. (Wilma) Brown of Vernon who, with her family, arrived here by car for the funeral. There are six grandchildren.

Hymns sung during the service were "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Unto the Hills."

Pallbearers were C. H. Elkins, Eugene Holliston, J. E. Davey, Peter Ferguson, A. C. Cromp and George Scott.

Burial was at Fairview cemetery.

HELPFUL PARSON

SALISBURY, England — When the local post office could not find a relief man to give veteran postman Len Warman a holiday, the village rector volunteered. Rev. Philip Hall said "although Len's cap was a bit big, most people kept back their smiles when they saw the dog-collar."

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BRITISH LEAD

LONDON — The British tanker fleet that was badly ravaged in the last war once again has taken the world lead. In the first six months this year British tanker tonnage rose by 225,000 tons to a total of 7,145,180, or 22.9 per cent of the world total. The American tanker fleet was estimated at 22.6 per cent.

Be Careful When Flying Kite; May Turn Out Flying Saucer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Military officials here were interested when Daly Neil Bolling, 14, reported seeing a flying saucer chasing a plane and in turn being chased by another plane.

Marine intelligence officers gave the answer yesterday.

The "saucer" was a sleeve target used by aircraft for machine-gun practice. The plane it "chased" actually was towing it. And the plane "chasing" the saucer really was following the target to fire at it.

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