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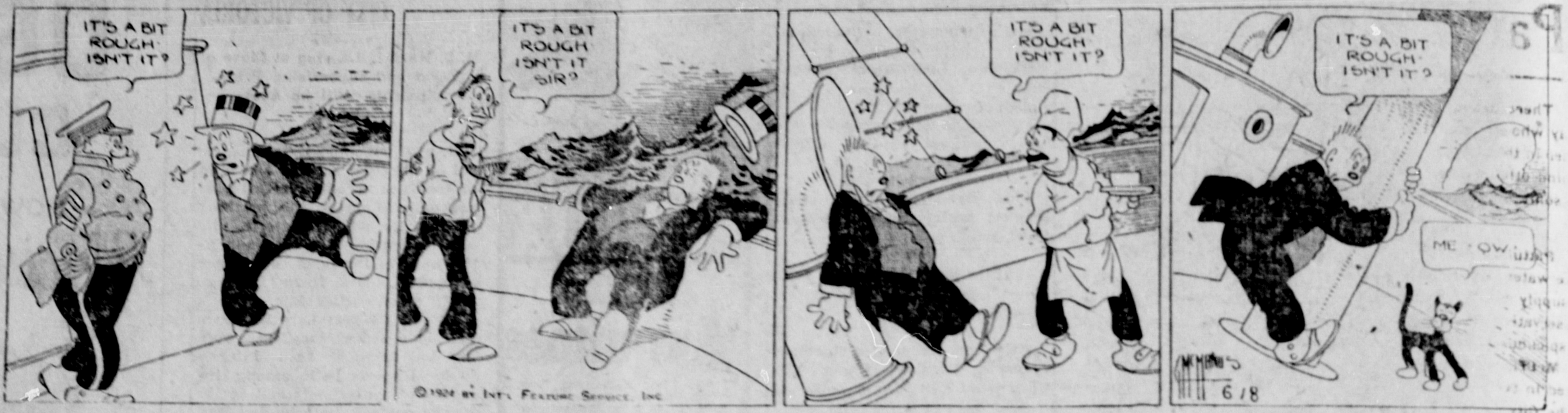
By George McManus


IT'S A BIT ROUGH ISN'T IT?
IT'S A BIT ROUGH ISN'T IT SIR?
IT'S A BIT ROUGH ISN'T IT?
IT'S A BIT ROUGH ISN'T IT?
ME-OW
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McMANUS 6/18

MINISTER OF LANDS IS REFUSED OPPORTUNITY SPEAK NEWTON MEETING.

(Continued from Page One.)

The speaker that night had ridiculed the road question. He would like to know what attitude the Bowser party would take in regard to this road and whether it would be shut down if they were returned?

(Shouts of "sit down," "Go on" and all sorts of noises).

5.—One more thing the people here would like to know. The speaker says the court house here is as good as the one at Victoria. Surely the speaker does not compare Prince Rupert with sleepy Victoria. These southerners come up here and (the rest of the sentence was drowned in noise from the Newton supporters who refused to hear any more).

The meeting was an interesting one. Along with Mr. Fisher and Mr. McDiarmid on the platform was A. W. Edge and Ma or Newton.

It was evident from the first that there was a large part of the audience opposed to the speakers and a number of interruptions took place during the speeches. On the entry of Mr. Pattullo there was clapping of hands.

Mayor Newton

In opening Mr. Newton said he was not going to discuss provincial questions but simply those of local interest. He claimed that huge sums of money were being sent south and that only small amounts were spent in the northern and central portions of the province.

Mr. Newton spoke of the neglect of New Massett which for years had sent money enough to meet all requirements half a dozen times over. It was necessary that some representative be sent to Victoria to overcome that. During the eight years Mr. Pattullo had been there he had not been energetic enough along that line. The central portions of the province had been starved. He had been sitting quietly by and doing nothing. This was sufficient to merit his retirement. All knew whether he had given satisfaction or not. If they felt they had not received the attention they ought they should turn and give their support in another direction. He promised to use the best energies to bring back this money to the city and the district tributary to it. They knew his record in the city. Either they were suited or they were not. He would leave the matter for them to think over. He thanked them for coming out and asked that they place him at the head of the poll.

F. A. McDiarmid

F. A. McDiarmid, a Vancouver lawyer who is touring the country on behalf of the Bowser party, opened by telling the gathering that they were members of the grand inquisition of the country and the votes gave would determine the policy to be adopted during the next four or five years. He had followed the records of the McBride and Bowser regimes and also that of the present Government, attending the sessions of the legislature each year. It was fair to criticize the public records of the public men and that he intended to do.

The speaker opened by criticizing the conduct of the freight rates fight. He agreed that what they asked was right, but it was the method of carrying it on to which he objected. The Government had been conducting the fight for years and asked that they be allowed to finish it. This fight had the support of every man, woman and child in British Columbia. They had contracted for certain things and should have received them. There was no divergence of opinion as to that. What he objected to was the appointment of a young lawyer, the member for Richmond, who had scarcely eight years experience in his profession, to handle the case. The first thing Mr. McGeer did was to insult the railway commission and he barely mentioned the constitutional question. A mass of detail had been presented with no results. The agreement between the Dominion and the province was that there should be no mountain rate and no discrimination but little stress was laid on that.

No Friends at Ottawa

Mr. McDiarmid challenged the statement that the Oliver party in this province were friends of the party in power at Ottawa arguing that if they were, why was no help coming from the local member or from the ministers at Ottawa. Under similar circumstances Sir John Macdonald had adjourned the House for a week in order to take part in the elections in Ontario. (A voice: "We dont need them.")

"In some constituencies you do need them," declared Mr. McDiarmid.

"Not here," came from the audience.

The speaker went on to say that the Attorney General had gone out of his way to make it uncomfortable for the party at Ottawa. He had insulted the Senate and had trouble with the mounted police. Ottawa had countered by appointing a man as judge of the appeal court who had been forced out of the Provincial Government. What was needed was to have the freight rates campaign in competent hands. He closed that part of his address by the notable statement "Everyone wants to see it settled the way Oliver wants to see it settled."

Questions of Finance

Mr. McDiarmid then went into matters of finance and taxation at some length. He said this was the real question at issue and not freight rates. The debt of the country was best calculated in the amount it cost to carry it. He read figures showing that the total amount raised from taxation in 1916 was $5,944,000 or a little less than six millions. Now the fixed charges alone amounted to $6,663,000 and the taxes this year brought in $18,359,246, an increase of over twelve millions. The population had increased only thirty per cent whereas the revenue had increased three hundrer per cent.

The speaker then turned his attention to the cost of education quoting to show that the increase in cost had been 75 per cent in ten years. He did not ask for a cheese paring policy but there was a discrepancy between the known expenditures and the cost to the province, which he could not understand. He did not think there was any increase in efficiency commensurate with the increased cost of the schools. The increase in teachers' salaries was directly due to the department of education and was not explained by any increase in population. Now the Government was going to investigate the system and had appointed two eminent professional men instead of a businessman who had some knowledge of finance and economics. The Government took the attitude that nothing was too good for the child but he thought the cost was too great.

Hardship on Business

The worst effect of the constant increase in debt was the hardship which it imposed on business life of the country preventing investors from coming in. He wanted to know where this taxation was going to stop. It reacted against those who were here and could not get out and did not want to get out.

Mr. Diarmid charged Mr. Pattullo with saying that the talk of reducing taxes was foolishness and could not be done.

Mr. Pattullo rose in the audience and there were immediate cries of "Platform" and he then said he would ask permission at the close to correct a wrong impression.

Mr. McDiarmid said the improved credit was not due to the administration of the Liberals but to war having closed. The integrity of the people formed the real assets of the country on which loans were made. The Government had gone on spending until they had reached a place where there had to be a stoppage. They could not go on piling up debt for their children to pay. He quoted more than once from the Daily News in connection with his argument. They knew what they would get if they continued the Oliver government in power. The Government had one settled policy and that was to remain in power. They were ready to promise anything. Bribery and corruption of constituencies was carried on, roads were built at great cost and here they had a courthouse better than the one in Victoria. Three constituencies were bought with the Fraser Valley highway and Point Grey with the university. At Victoria Oliver said he would give them an elevator. Also he saw from the News that an elevator was to built here and that paper said they could not expect to get the elevator unless they backed up the freight rates fight. The transcontinental highway from this city had been started but he was told there were not enough pickaxes and shovels and they did not intend to buy any more.

No Personal Corruption

The speaker said he did not charge any personal corruption on the part of ministers of the crown or officials. They were a loveable, likeable lot but wasteful, trying to comply with everybody's pet scheme. This was in contrast to Mr. Bowser who was willing to say "no" to these suggestions. He set aside the charges of the provincial party as "foolish." They did not cut any figure. Ignorance could waste more money than thieves could steal and for every error of judgment in the past they were paying today. Bowser was the man who had moral courage to say "No" to his friends.

The scenes then occurred which are described at the beginning.

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LIQUOR-CONTROL PLEBISCITES ACT.

PROCLAMATION OF RETURNING OFFICER

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
In the SKEENA Electoral District.

TO WIT:

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the Electors of the Electoral District aforesaid that I have received His Majesty's Writ to me directed, and bearing date the 10th day of May, 1924, commanding me to cause the following question, namely:—

Do you approve of the sale of beer by the glass in licensed premises without a bar under Government control and regulation?

to be submitted according to law to the Electors qualified to vote for the election of a member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District aforesaid; and, further, that in obedience to the said Writ a poll shall be open at eight o'clock in the forenoon and shall be closed at seven o'clock in the afternoon on the 20th day of June, 1924, for taking and receiving the votes of the said Electors in each polling division of the Electoral District aforesaid at the respective places following:—

POLLING DIVISIONS.

Butedale
Cedarvale
Claxton
Copper City
Duthie Mines
Evelyn
Glentanna
Hanall
Hazelton
Kitwanga
Kitimat
Kitsumkalum
Kispiox
Lorne Creek
Little Canyon
Moricetown
New Hazelton
Pacific
Port Essington
[illegible]
[illegible]
Skeena Crossing
Smithers
South Hazelton
[illegible]
Swanson Bay
Telkwa
Terrace
Usk

of which all persons are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

GIVEN under my hand at Hazelton, B.C., this Twentieth day of May, 1924.

JAS. TURNBULL,
Returning Officer.

LIQUOR-CONTROL PLEBISCITES ACT.

PROCLAMATION OF RETURNING OFFICER
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
In the PRINCE RUPERT Electoral District

TO WIT:

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the Electors of the Electoral District aforesaid that I have received His Majesty's Writ to me directed, and bearing date the 10th day of May, 1924, commanding me to cause the following question, namely:—

Do you approve of the sale of beer by the glass in licensed premises without a bar under Government control and regulation?

to be submitted according to law to the Electors qualified to vote for the election of a member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District aforesaid; and, further, that in obedience to the said Writ a poll shall be opened at eight o'clock in the forenoon and shall be closed at seven o'clock in the afternoon on the 20th day of June, 1924, for taking and receiving the votes of the said Electors in each polling division of the said Electoral District aforesaid at the respective places following:—

POLLING DIVISIONS.

[illegible]

of which all persons are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

GIVEN under my hand at PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., this seventeenth day of May, 1924.

[illegible]
Returning Officer.

LAND ACT.

Notice of Intention to Apply to Lease Land.

In Queen Charlotte Islands Land District, Recording District of Skeena, and situate in front of Block 18, [illegible] Queen Charlotte Islands.

Take Notice that [illegible] of Massett, occupation [illegible], intends to apply for permission to lease the following described [illegible]: Commencing at a post planted at the southwest corner of Block 18; [illegible] and containing [illegible] acres, more or less.

[illegible]
Name of Applicant.