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HOWLING OVER STORK PROPOSAL

Vancouver Objects to Removal of Fisheries Office from that City

SAYS SPECTACULAR PLAY
Province Newspaper has Long Editorial Article Criticising Proposed Action

Vancouver is spilling fire at the proposal to remove the fisheries headquarters from that city. The member for Skeena is anathema because he would touch a sacred Vancouver privilege. In an editorial article dealing with the situation the Vancouver Province says:


"Economy" is a word to conjure with in Canada just now. The burdened taxpayer has sent it ringing across the Dominion, and governments, federal, provincial and municipal, have felt its compelling force and have been constrained to bow to it and act. But not everything suggested or done in the name of economy is economy in the true sense. Some of them are mere camouflage or spectacular plays to win the plaudits of the gallery. It is easy to top off a service or an office that costs several thousands of dollars a year. But when the topping off results in new expenses, or in inconveniences, loss of time and annoyance that amount in the end to more than the sum saved, the country is the loser and not the gainer.

Make Big Saving

In the House of Commons recently the member for Skeena told the government that it could effect a saving of \$50,000 a year by eliminating the office of the chief inspector of fisheries at Vancouver. The salaries paid at this office totalled something over \$30,000 a year, and in addition there were travelling expenses for a number of officials, and office rental and upkeep. The office, Mr. Stork held, was unnecessary, as its work could be done by the fisheries inspectors at New Westminster, Prince Rupert and Nanaimo, and these could report direct to Ottawa.

Mr. Stork's proposal is reactionary in the extreme. There is nothing to recommend it, while objections stand revealed on all sides. In the first place it would undo the work of years. For more than a decade it has been the aim of the British Columbia Government, the Vancouver Board of Trade and all those engaged in the fishing industry, to centralize control on the Pacific coast. In the establishment of a chief inspector's office they achieved a measure of success. To remove control to Ottawa again would be a decidedly backward step. Fishing is one of British Columbia's four basic industries. Ninety per cent of the companies engaged in it have their headquarters in Vancouver. It is absurd to suggest that control should be taken away from the centre of the industry and placed more than

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2000 miles off, and that a decision on even the smallest detail should be obtainable at the point where the people most vitally concerned are congregated. The thing that would help the fishing industry on this coast would be the delegation of more authority to the chief inspector here, not the destruction of his office or the curtailment of his powers.

Want Central Authority

During the fishing season, conditions are changing constantly; there are new problems to be solved every day and new emergencies to be met. It is imperative that there should be some central authority on the coast capable of dealing with questions instantly. It is impossible to place this authority in the hands of inspectors at three separate points. It must be centralized, and to centralize it at Ottawa would mean inconvenience, loss of time and constant expense.

If the central office were closed there would be no one in touch with the fishing industry throughout the whole province. The inspectors would report to Ottawa, but each would know only of conditions in his own district, and the reports might be conflicting. Ottawa would be supposed to direct, but lacking authoritative and correlated information it would be in no position to carry out this duty.

The question of supplies also arises. The chief inspector's office acts as a central purchasing agency, and buying in large quantities is able to get a wholesale rate. As a result of this there is a material saving, but if the office is eliminated this saving will be lost.

Foolish Argument

A perusal of Mr. Stork's speech makes it quite clear that he was speaking in general terms, and had not taken the trouble to look into the details of his suggestion. It is quite possible that, at some inconvenience to those interested, licenses could be issued from a bureau in Ottawa, and correspondence conducted from there. But Mr. Stork makes no attempt to show how members of the inside staff at the capital could construct fishways and clear obstructions from British Columbia streams, inspect fish hatcheries or inland rivers and lakes, or repair gas engines on boats on the coast. Yet these are some of the duties performed by the officials whom he would dismiss or transfer to Ottawa. As for travelling expenses, it is difficult to see how there would be any saving in having men journey from Ottawa rather than from Vancouver.

There is a phase of the fishing industry which does not figure largely from a dollars and cents point of view, but which is growing in importance yearly,

and which will become more important as the possibilities of this province from a tourist point of view, become better known abroad. This is angling. Anglers are interested in the preservation and propagation of sporting fish. They are enthusiasts. They have numerous suggestions and requests to make. They know they can get service from a man on the ground, who has personal knowledge of their requirements and difficulties. They are not so hopeful of getting anything by long-distance bombardment of Ottawa.

Will Use Club

The department at Ottawa is understood to be giving serious consideration to the suggestion of the member for Skeena. Vancouver should make it plain to those in authority that there is no economy in this direction, but added expense, untold inconvenience and danger to the industry.

COST OF INQUIRY INTO P.G.E. AFFAIRS COST LESS THAN REPORTED

Premier Says Will Not Exceed \$30,000 and Possibly be Under That Mark.

VICTORIA, April 3. — Investigation into the affairs of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, which concluded last week, probably will cost the people of British Columbia between \$20,000 and \$30,000, it was made known at the Parliament Buildings. Early estimates of a cost of \$2,000 a day for the whole proceedings, it is understood, were too large. All bills have not yet been received by the government, yet, but Premier Oliver does not believe that the total expense will be more than \$30,000.

"The government takes the stand that the investigation proved absolutely nothing against it," the premier stated. "The provincial party, so far as we could see, got nowhere with its charges."

It was learned, however, that General A. D. McRae's followers intend to cover the entire province with a vigorous propaganda during the next few months in an effort to convince the electors that the railway investigation was very damaging to the government. A new issue of The Searchlight, the Provincial Party organ, will be published for this purpose shortly and distributed broadcast.

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OFFICERS FOR MOOSE LODGE ARE SELECTED

Fred Scadden Heads Order Again for Year 1924—Secretary and Treasurer Re-Elected

The following officers were selected by the Moose Lodge for the year 1924 at their meeting last night in the Metropole Hall: Dictator, Fred Scadden (re-elected). Vice-dictator, B. J. Bacon. Prelate, Charles Watman. Secretary, Percy Cameron (re-elected). Treasurer, Thor Johnson (re-elected). Trustee—N. Mussallem, three years. Representative to Supreme Lodge, B. M. Simpson.

BOAT ARRIVALS

C.N.R. steamer Prince George, Capt. Harry Nadden, arrived yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from Vancouver and way ports bringing the following passengers:

For Prince Rupert — W. E. Baillie, E. Gray, P. Gordon, W. F. Martin, O. W. Robinson, N. McKay, E. Warren, A. J. Cox, Mrs. R. C. Bamford and children (Endako), W. A. Allen, Stewart G. Clark, K. Symons, Oscar Eden, W. W. Nobbs, W. A. Wylie and B. Wylie (Houston), Mrs. Kennedy and children, R. Butler, J. McNeil, J. Carson, T. Oxley, Mrs. Perkins, Tom Shimizu, C. W. Burt, W. S. Fawcett, Mr. Katal, S. Mori, Mr. and Mrs. McKay, J. M. Hoekin, Mr. Elkins, Mrs. M. Almond, W. J. Foster (North Bay), C. H. Anderson (Halifax), Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Eastwood, Mrs. J. R. Walker, A. E. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. W. Keith, Mr. and Mrs. Burton and family, Robert Allen, Louis Cohen, Mr.

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Carnation Cream of Soup
Wash & dry spinach and cook 4 hour in boiling water, drain and rub through sieve. Melt 2 tbsp. butter, add 2 tbsp. flour and 1 cup Carnation diluted with water. Cook 5 minutes. Add spinach and season with salt and pepper.
EMERY BLAKE, Domestic Science Department.

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