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Get on With Progress

AS PRINCE GEORGE enthusiastically makes ready for the official opening of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway into the city, our best wishes go to this neighbor which may now anticipate important new business and activity.

At the same time, this added transportation link to the northern interior focuses attention on that vast and potentially productive territory which, for lack of communication facilities, has been barely tapped. It is the Peace River country. With a grain-growing area estimated at 34,000 square miles, this country sprawls across the north like some enormous garden, fertile but neglected.

So sure are its inhabitants that they have a treasure at their doorsteps that at one time, despairing of government action to give them a highway to the coast, they started to build one for themselves. With axes, picks and shovels, they hacked their way for several miles into the Monkman Pass until the sheer indifference of everyone else finally sapped their resolve and the work was abandoned.

Now after years of entreaty and restless waiting they have a highway. That is progress, but it is shamefully delayed progress, and it would be a glum outlook for the future if as many years must pass again before a railway is laid into the country.

Such a development is no pipe dream. The value of penetrating into the territory with adequate lines of transportation has long been recognized by provincial leaders, up to and including former Premier Byron Johnson. In pre-election days Social Credit spokesmen uttered the same thought.

But it is high time the project was removed from the conversational stage and put into that of blueprints.

We Can See For Ourselves

A BOUT the last thing that most people are interested in right now is the Olympic Games. The competitors' village at Helsinki, alive with activity last summer, must now resemble a ghost town—if indeed it has not been entirely dismantled—and it will be four years before another somewhere else takes its place.

But taking into account the weak showing of Canada in the last games, it is by no means too early for this country to start looking ahead to 1956 with an idea of getting itself once and for all out of the also-ran class.

Of timely concern, therefore, is an article in the current issue of New Liberty magazine which makes some scorching observations on the reasons for the Canadian debacle at Helsinki. The blame, according to the article, rests right in the lap of the Canadian Olympic Association.

"Make no mistake about it, Canada's 1952 Olympic strength was sabotaged quite thoroughly from top level," author Gordon Walker writes. "And unless we can take drastic corrective measures, this year's farce will be repeated in 1956, the next Olympic year."

Among the examples cited by the article is the treatment meted out to the Vancouver athlete, Jack Burney, generally regarded as the best 400-meter hurdler ever produced in Canada.

Unable to compete in the Hamilton Olympic trials because he was serving with the U.S. Army at the time, Barney, who had broken the Canadian record for his event and had received a substantial promise that he would be allowed to compete for his country anyway, paid his own way to Helsinki to take part.

There, however, he was quickly cold-shouldered by Canadian officials. On top of that he was told it would cost him six dollars board money for each day he spent at the Olympic village.

"Surely this must have been the darkest, most dishonorable day in Canadian sports history," Walker remarks.

From this distance it is impossible to say who was at fault, or why. The bald fact is there for all to see, however, that Canadian performance in the Olympic Games does not by a long shot measure up to the standards which the country is capable of achieving.

Some critical self-examination is necessary right away if, four years hence, we are to send a band of athletes into the contest with any real hope of success.

As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

No Quick Easy War

THE 1952 EDITION of Brassey's annual carries an article by Brigadier-General C. N. Barclay which deserves the leather medal for downright silliness.

Brassey's is the guide book which gives all the latest facts and calculations about the various armies, navies and air forces. It carries authoritative articles by "experts."

Brigadier Barclay says that the next war would be an atomic war and would end in a few weeks with "overwhelming victory" for the side with the most and deadliest atom bombs. But he is not quite sure that the U.S. has more bombs than Russia. As a boost for more and bigger bombs his article is no du.

* * *

IF I TURN BACK to my own column for the years just before Hitler's war I see that I wrote again and again against that very sort of false prophecy.

We were told that mass bombing would end wars in a matter of weeks. "Experts" even wrote books based on what would happen in Britain if and when the enemy mass-bombed that isle. Millions of civilians would make for the country, said the prophets. The whole structure of society would collapse. The whole thing would be so ghastly that it could not possibly last more than weeks.

As it turned out, the Second World War lasted longer than the first.

Mr. Churchill's recent prediction about the nature of third world war seems to me much more realistic than Brigadier Barclay's. The destruction of the first month would be ghastly, says the Prime Minister, for BOTH sides would use everything in their store-house of devilish weapons.

But after the first month, reasons Mr. Churchill, the great nations would fight on like broken-backed beasts—maimed and crippled, but still struggling for very life.

I read Mr. Churchill's speech with great care. For it seems to me it is a pointed warning to Russia, particularly when he says that after the first month there would be large areas of the earth across which no large land armies could move. As Russia is primarily a land power, and the Atlantic Union nations are primarily sea powers, the meaning of that statement seems clear.

* * *

MR. CHURCHILL reasons, as I have done in my small corner for years, that a third world war is extremely unlikely BECAUSE both sides know these basic facts. Unfortunately for our argument, the present situation in Korea shows how it is possible to get into war which it is impossible to end quickly.

There is of course a very great difference between the situation now and that before Hitler's war. Hitler always intended to wage war—in fact by the very nature of his regime could not even survive indefinitely without war. The one thing which the Kremlin fears more than anything else is an outright, total war of the kind Hitler deliberately brought on.

Contrary to Brigadier Barclay's prediction—I do not believe that either the United States, Russia or China could be knocked out by atom bombs or other such devices. If war comes, it will be ended, in the long run, by land armies. The idea that it will be any "push-button" pushover—ghastly but short—is just silly.

SHOWS AFFIDAVITS

Columnist Claims Truman Was Klu Klux

NEW YORK (CP)—Commentator-columnist Walter Winchell showed photostats of seven affidavits on his television show Sunday night and claimed they were proof President Truman had been a member of the Klan Klan.

The dates quoted by Winchell from affidavits were, with one possible exception, during October, 1944, while Truman was campaigning for vice-presidency.



HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS for El Salvador is the aim of technical assistance provided by the UN and its specialized agencies. The International Labor Organization is trying to make improvements in working and living conditions in the handicraft industries. Shown is a vendor of clay jars, production of which is an important handicraft in this Latin American country.

Governments Have No Control Over Finance, Says Socred

VICTORIA (CP)—The greatest fallacy in the world today is the belief that governments control the financial policies of their country, Health Minister Eric Martin told a meeting of the Victoria branch of the Society of Industrial and Cost Accountants of B.C. here.

Addressing the meeting on "Some of the Fallacies of the Present Financial System," Mr. Martin declared:

"No government on earth controls its own financial policies. The banks control everything."

"Imposition of credit restrictions in Canada was not a federal government plan," contended Mr. Martin. "The suggestion actually came from the Bank of International Settlements."

The minister claimed the credit restriction policy impeded expansion and prosperity in Canada.

"Why were credit restrictions instituted in a country already short of purchasing power?" asked the minister.

He pointed to the situation in Canada in 1948 when, he said, total production was valued at \$15,000,000,000 and the national income at only \$12,000,000,000.

TAXES PUSH UP PRICES

Action of the government in increasing taxes pushed up prices, he said.

"The result of all this is that the money supply is dying up. The gap between purchasing power and goods produced is getting wider."

"We're headed for difficulty because we're piling up goods and services to the point where workers will have to be laid off. And unemployment will see the purchasing power fall off still more."

"It should be obvious to all that, under the present financial system, the more you produce the less purchasing power there is," stated Mr. Martin.

He told his audience a depression doesn't have to be created—as it was in 1929. It can be automatic, he warned.

Canada at present, the speaker continued, is fortunate enough to have outside capital which is warding off a depression.

"But this shouldn't be necessary," he stressed.

SOLUTION TO DEPRESSION

The solution, he said, is what Social Credit tried to do in Alberta and was "stopped cold by the federal government, the Bank of Canada and the CPR."

The plan, he explained, was to place more purchasing power in the hands of the people through issuing of \$25 dividends.

On a nation-wide basis, now constitutionally impossible, he said the deficiency of purchasing power would be made up by the Bank of Canada. The money would be drawn from the federal government.

If there was a \$3,000,000,000 deficiency in purchasing power, he said \$1,500,000,000 could be made up in payment of dividends, and the other half by discounting by proclamation the price of all goods by 10 per cent.

"There would be a balanced economy. Prices would come down and purchasing power would go up," said Mr. Martin. "We would have the money to buy what we produce."

PRINTING MONEY

"We're told we'd create inflation by this method because we'd resort to the printing press for money. Well, they resort to the printing press now, don't they?"

He stressed, however, that Social Credit has no intention of nationalizing the banking system.

When Social Credit changes the system, he assured his listeners, business in Canada would not be dislocated, and there'd be no upheaval.

"Some day," he continued, "we'll abolish one of the most vicious principle on earth—interest on money."

Ray Reflects and Reminiscences

Good slang is like good gasoline. It just doesn't happen by itself.

Want Ad — Wanted typist, smart enough to be worth \$133 a month yet dumb enough to start for less.—Galt Reporter.

KILL IT

A reporter in Kenya says he has received a letter of the circular kind, saying he will be killed in retaliation for the British campaign against the Mau Mau terrorist organization. It wouldn't be the first time things have been killed in print shops.

FULL DETAILS

Some fellows who boast that they don't know when they're licked, get married and find out.—Ex.

During last year Canada's canines devoured fifty million pounds of canned dog food. This was worth about \$7,000,000. We couldn't think of a business going to the dogs in a happier way.

Chinese soldiers have started throwing stones at Canadian troops in the front lines facing them. This is a natural outcome of the well-established Communist custom of mud-slinging.

A BIG COIN

Speaking of the 1939 dollar, that respectable coin will now buy 105 cents worth of electric

SAVES MILLIONS

B.C. Reacts To Rejection Of Rate Hike

VANCOUVER (CP) — Business men here estimate the Board of Transport Commissioners rejection of the railways' application for an eight per cent freight rate increase saved British Columbia "millions of dollars."

A spokesman for retailers said today the higher rates would have been reflected in retail prices because manufacturers and retailers could not have absorbed the boost.

"The board decision undoubtedly will have many beneficial effects insofar as this area is concerned," said Howard N. Walters, secretary of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Since the sharp increase in rail rates from 1948, others said, millions of dollars have been added to the price of consumer goods.

Meanwhile, C. W. Brazier, British Columbia's representative in five freight rate hearings, said the board appeared "to have got itself out of a straitjacket" by rejecting the railways' application.

"The board in previous decisions appeared to have bound itself to a formula," said the Vancouver lawyer. "Now they seem to have worked themselves out of it."

LETTERBOX

QUESTIONS RIGHTS OF NATIVE INDIAN

Editor,

With reference to the editorial in your issue of Oct. 24, regarding the plans of the Oblate Fathers to control the freedom of movement of the native people of Canada, it would appear that the Oblate Fathers take the view that the Indians are to be hived on reserves for all eternity, and that they are not to be encouraged to find a place for themselves in the national life of their own land.

It is stated that the scheme now awaits the approval of the Federal government. Does this mean that if approved, the Indian will be forced by law to accept the fact that his destiny is to be foreordained at the caprice of any organization which is strong enough to bring a minority influence on the government of the day?

Is the Indian to have no voice in his own affairs, either now or in the future?

"PUZZLED."

Suicides in Sudden Deaths

VANCOUVER (CP) — Four probable suicides were among six sudden deaths reported to Vancouver police during the week-end.

BIGGER GAME

ISAAC'S HABOR, N.S. (CP) — Ernest MacMillan went hunting for deer but returned with a black bear estimated to weigh 900 pounds. MacMillan was hunting alone when attacked by the bear which he promptly shot.

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