

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association.
Published by "The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited"
J. F. MAGOR, President H. G. PERRY, Vice-President
Subscription Rates:
By carrier—For week, 25c; per month \$1.00; per year, \$10.00
By mail—Per month, 75c; per year, \$8.00.
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Price of a Garbage Can

SEVERAL months ago full civic attention was directed at that loathsome pest in our midst, the rat. It was agreed that he was foul and dangerous, and that he must go. But there was more talk than action and so the rat in all his thousands is still with us, as undesirable and prolific as ever.

As winter closes in, his unwanted presence becomes more obvious. Taking advantage of the city's tolerance, he invades private homes, offices and public buildings and makes himself comfortable and reproductive in the heat which we provide.

It is disgraceful and dangerous enough that the populace should be forced to house this verminous guest, but why it should also deliberately feed him is a question that has no answer. Yet this is what residents by the score are doing.

In most cities it has become compulsory that garbage should be put outside in a metal lidded container. Not only does this afford protection from pests before the garbage is picked up, but it facilitates handling into the disposal trucks.

In Prince Rupert no such precaution is enforced, with the result that waste food in cardboard boxes and paper bundles liberally adorns the streets on, and before, collection day. This is blue-plate service for rats, and they often get a second go at it when the boxes or bundles tear and the contents are scattered into the street. Sea-gulls and dogs are helpful accomplices in spreading the debris.

It is understandable that some families should regard the cost of a suitable garbage can as a real problem. Yet if these families are inviting rats to their doorsteps, they are also inviting them into their homes where their depredations will eventually prove far more costly than the price of a garbage can.

This and all the other attractions offered to the rats of Prince Rupert should come under serious official scrutiny and it should be soon, because the creatures meanwhile are going about their vital business of breeding, ravaging, and threatening the health of the city.

We cannot expect any Pied Piper miracles, but anything would be better than inaction.

Weatherman Wants to Help

ALTHOUGH people everywhere have a lot of fun at the weatherman's expense, there are few individuals in positions of public responsibility who are listened to with more interest.

The fact is that the weatherman today is not the befuddled, inept character that we like to picture. His trade has become a highly professional one in which reports are received from thousands of miles away so that each community may know what to expect not only tomorrow but several days hence.

Those whose lives may depend on his word, such as fishermen and aircraft pilots, have learned to put their faith in him. Yet as the meteorologist, as he is now called, is usually giving his information to an unseen audience by wireless, it is not always possible for him to tell if his service is meeting requirements. This applies particularly to shipping operators who rely wholly on the radio to receive their weather reports.

To correct this, the meteorological office at Sea Island, Vancouver, is circulating a request for opinions and advice as to how the service can be improved.

Addressed to coastal shipping companies, operators of towboats and fishing vessels, government and other patrol craft, its enquiry includes such questions as these: What parts of the B.C. coast produce particular weather problems for your operations? What kind of information is more important to you: forecasts and warnings of expected weather, or local reports of observed conditions? What improvements would you like to see?

There may be some operators who have not received this questionnaire but who have problems which they wish to offer for consideration. If so, they are asked to write to this address: Marine Weather Broadcasts, Meteorological Office, Vancouver AMF, B.C.

Results may be gained from this enquiry which will assist many in coping with the forces of weather. It is hoped that full use will be made of it.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Just at the moment when the price of pulpwood has slumped to an all-time low since World War II, the price of newsprint has sky-rocketed to a new high. The paradoxical situation is being brought to the attention of the government from at last two quarters. MPs from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario are protesting the cut in the returns received by the primary producer at the same time as the final processor is improving his revenue position.

Other MPs are pressing the complaints of the newspaper publishing industry.

The suggestion of the MPs to the government is that the existing and stringent federal anti-combine legislation should be invoked against the newsprint mills.

ACTION UNLIKELY

Sources which are closest to the government's handling of the situation say that it is extremely unlikely that anything will be done. They base their prediction on legal grounds. It seems that the formidable "teeth" of the federal anti-combine legislation aren't intended to bite into the newsprint industry.

The reason is that the newsprint industry is classified as essentially an export enterprise, since only a minor fraction of its output goes into the domestic market. Because of that fact, it evades the provisions of the anti-combine legislation.

Justice Minister Stuart Garson explained the law at the last session of Parliament. In addition, he even went further and gave the newsprint industry a very clean bill of health in respect to its price policy. Garson said that any concerted action which the industry might have taken in the field of price policy had had the effect of holding Canadian newsprint prices well below the levels which the huge volume of "black market" demand would have supported.

COMPETITIVE PRICE

The view which the Justice Minister expressed a year ago is reported reliably to be the view which prevails today in cabinet circles. MPs who are seeking action on the grievances of the farmers who cut pulpwood and of the publishers who buy newsprint are receiving no encouragement. Instead, they (the publishers) are being told that they are buying at "competitive" prices.

By "competitive" prices are meant prices lower than could be secured from Scandinavian sources.

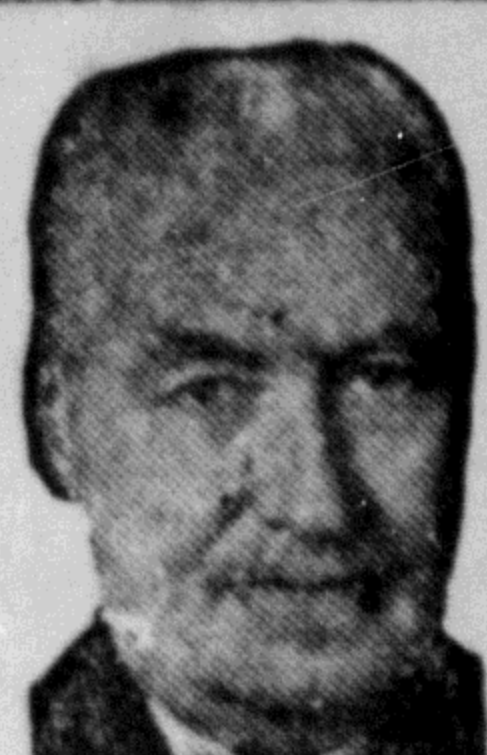
But while the government doesn't intend to act in the case of the newsprint mills, there is a clear indication that prosecution is pending against the fine paper firms recently involved in a probe by the anti-combine commissioner.

The Justice Department is busy preparing its case and formal notice of its intentions is expected to be published within a few days.



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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

• WHICH JOB FOR PEARSON?

MR. READER, suppose that you were Lester B. Pearson. Or Mrs. Reader, suppose that you were Mrs. Lester B. Pearson. How would you decide the big problem that Les now faces?

Trygve Lie has resigned as Secretary General of the UN. Lester Pearson is the obvious choice of the overwhelming majority of the UN members to succeed to the job. Even the Russians have a grudging admiration for Les, for the acid tongued Vishinsky once said, "I notice that the delegate from Canada often says right out loud what other delegates think, but are afraid to say."

THE UN JOB pays \$60,000 a year tax free, and carries a pension of \$10,000 per year, also tax free. Les's present job as Canadian Minister of External Affairs is worth \$18,000 per year. But it is a tribute to the man that not a single person who knows Lester Pearson will believe for a moment that Les would take the UN job, merely for the money. If he takes it he will do so only because he believes that he could do more in that position than he could do either in his present position or even as Prime Minister of Canada.

Les's whole heart and soul is in the cause of organizing world peace under world law. He believes that UN is the vital, practical stepping stone toward "the parliament of man, the federation of the world" prophesied by Tennyson in the famous passage which Les, myself and a host of others memorized at school.

IF MR. PEARSON decides to remain where he is, he has a good chance to become Liberal leader when Mr. Laurent steps down. However, he is enough of a practical politician to know that he faces powerful competition from the long time party stalwarts, such as Walter Harris and Douglas Abbott. Pearson might not get the PM's job, even if the Liberals are still in power. And Les knows that the "time for a change" idea is the most powerful factor in all elections, everywhere. George Drew, or even Solon Low (God help us and UN) could emerge as the balance of power leader after the next federal election, not to mention 1957.

SO, READER, what would you do? If your main interest in life was to lay the foundations of solid world peace would you figure that you could better do that as Number 1 or Number 2 man in the Liberal party in Canada? Or would you figure that the UN Secretary General's position was more influential?

I myself asked this very question of a large and representative group of Americans, including Assistant U.S. Secretary of State George McGhee and his wife. It was in Portland, Oregon, just before the Korean war.

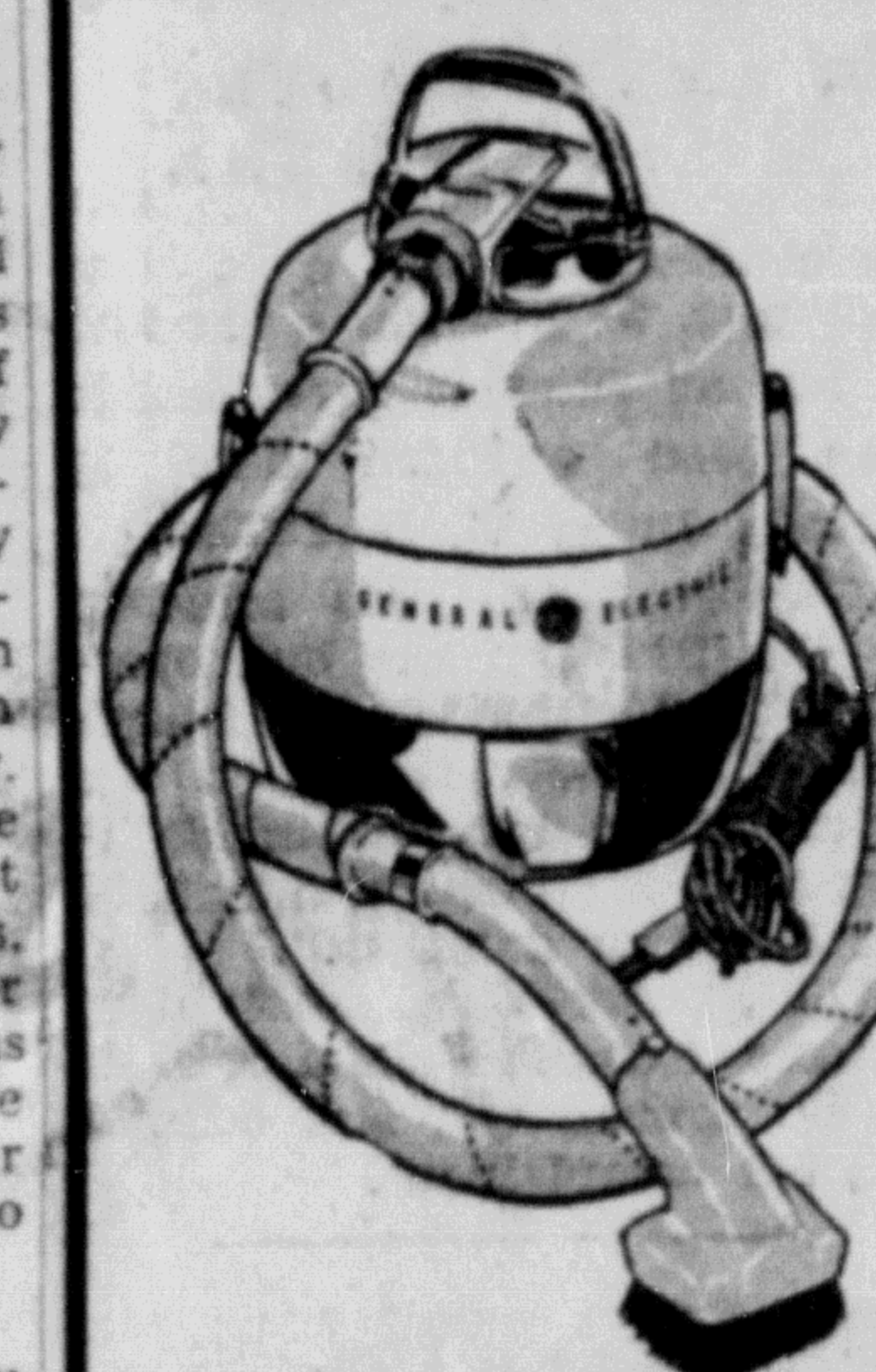
The overwhelming answer was that a Prime Minister Pearson of Canada would be in a more influential position than a Secretary General Pearson of UN. But I am not so sure, myself, especially as Mr. Pearson may never get to be PM of Canada, or hold the job long if he did get it.

MY OWN HUNCH is that Les does not like the purely party-political side of parliamentary life. My recollection of the Pearsons in our boyhood days in Hamilton is that they were staunch Tories (as were many Methodist parsons). Les himself is of course one of the truest liberals (with small l) in the whole world today.

Anyway, reader, there is the picture. What would you do? Write me either through the editor of this paper or direct to 1750 West 62 Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

COSTLY MODEL

LONDON (CP) — A working model of a coalmine has been opened to the public in the South Kensington science museum. The £80,000 model took nearly three years' labor by the museum's 25 craftsmen and scientists.



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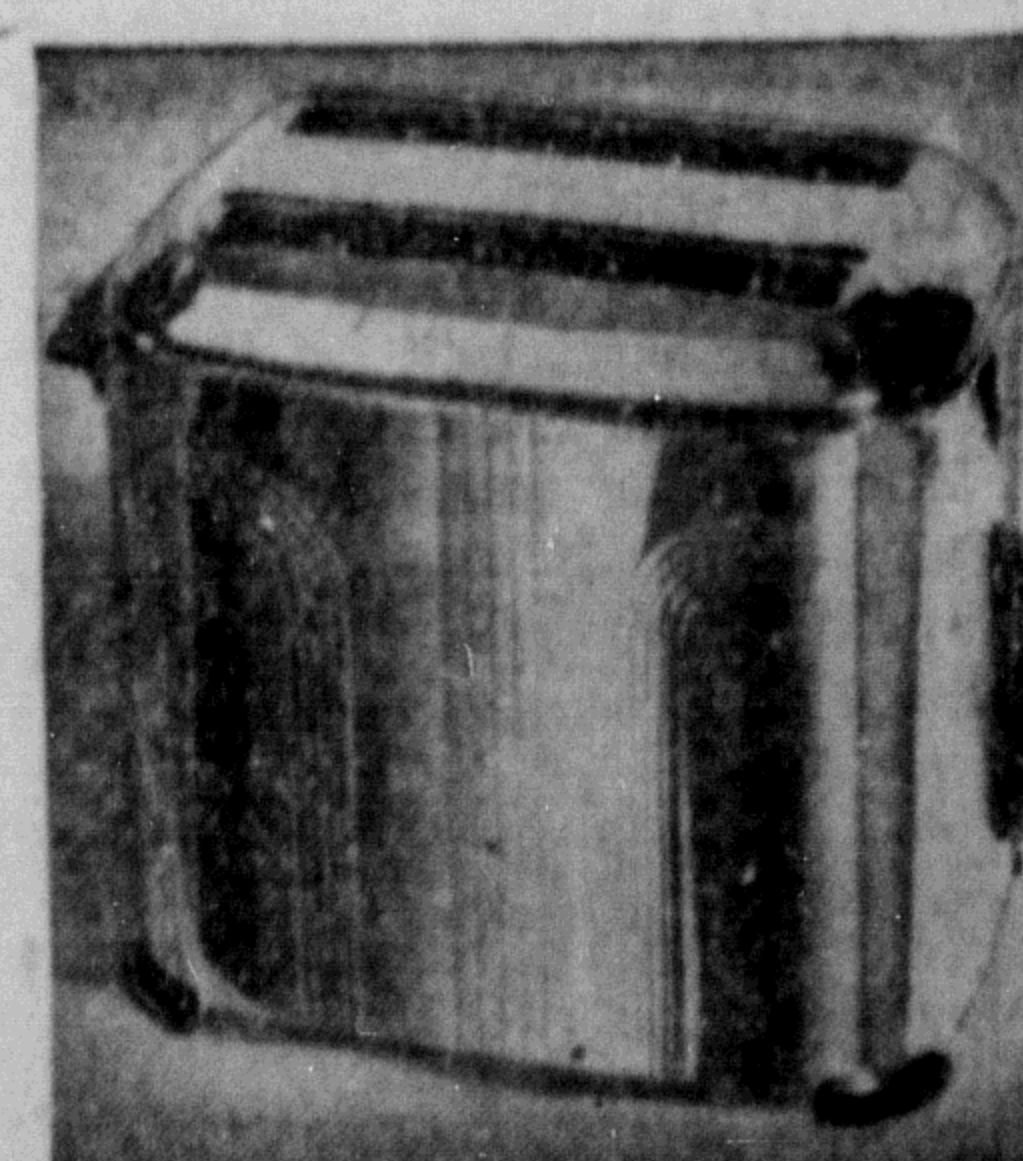
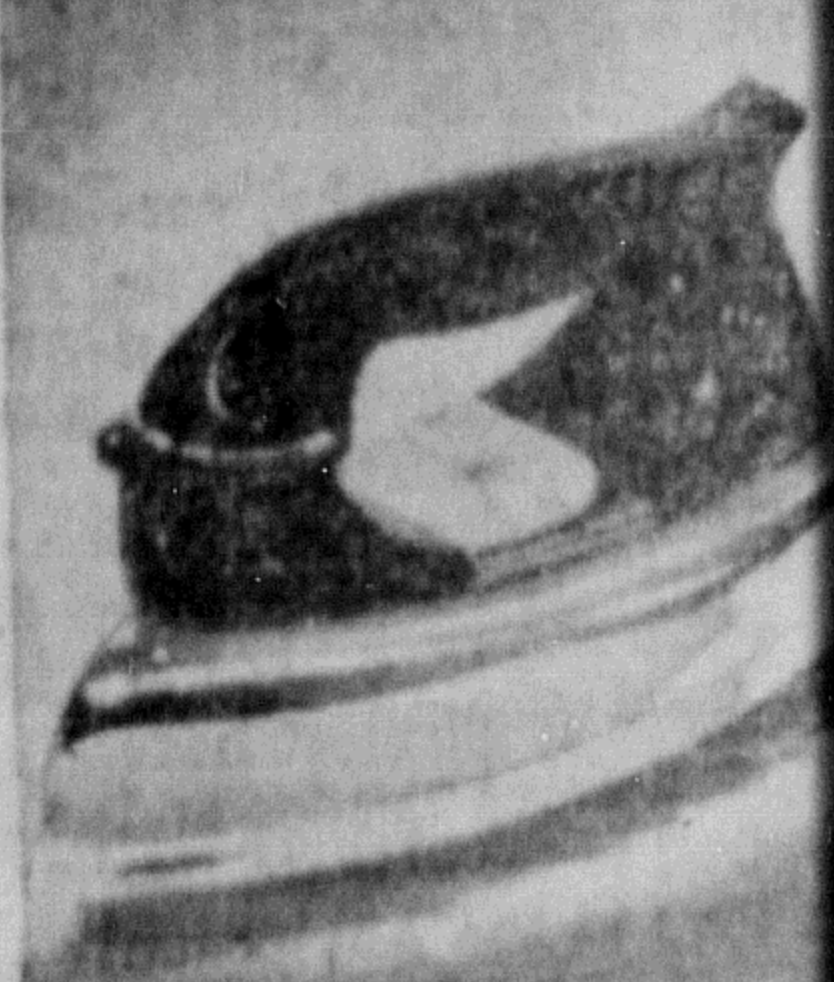
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