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On Nov. 29 The Daily News gave prominence to an article by its outdoors columnist, Eric Martin, which described some of the advantages to be gained by the proposed flooding in Tweedsmuir Park. This brought a letter to the editor from H. J. Wilds, secretary of the Tweedsmuir Park Rod and Gun Club, which offers another side of the picture and which, in the interests of fairness, is published in full below:

**OTHER SIDE OF PICTURE**

The article by Eric S. Martin published in Saturday's edition of your valuable paper, "has been badly received by rod and gun circles in Burns Lake.

Mr. Martin's reasoning is so apparently false as to be ridiculous, his facts away off the beam, his geography very shaky and his intention to say the least of it, very questionable.

Granted that the province of British Columbia is going to gain a large manufacturing centre; but this is the only statement in the article we accept.

This "virtually unused and unknown bush land" is known and used by hundreds of his fellow countrymen. It is known and used by tourists from as far east as Texas, as far south as Indiana; by people from other countries and other lands. Yet this is hardly the point either. Tweedsmuir Park and the surrounding country is a heritage, apart from the fact that it is the home of the moose and the caribou, the grizzly and the beaver; apart from the fact that it is one of the best hunting grounds this side of the Rockies; apart from the fact that it contains some of the best timber to be found in the interior. It is also a trust.

Civilization cannot afford to write off a few thousand acres here and a few thousand acres there, as has happened at Sugar Lake, at Stave Lake; and as it could happen at Buttle Lake and now will happen at Tweedsmuir Park if a few people are not checked in their course.

Take another look at the picture of Stave Lake to be found in a recent edition of the Daily News. Tell us, Mr. Martin, do you find much "recreational value" in this scene of utter desolation? Would you like to cast your fly in those waters? Even in all the fire-swept regions of the northwest there is nothing so ugly and futile as at Stave Lake. Is it possible that human effort has produced this havoc? Is it possible that anyone wants to keep it up on doing this sort of thing?

Again, club members spent some time in the creeks this spring and on the lake shores. We did not see any vegetation either living or dead in the waters, except perhaps one over-mature tree borne down by a weight of snow and hanging over but still clinging to life. Nothing that nature ever did in this way approximates the destruction caused by the callousness of man.

As to your geography, Mr. Martin, the North shore of Ootsa will not merge with the southwest end of Francois Lake or the Buck Flats lead to the new inland sea. Their are contours to be circumvented in the former case and the Buck Flats road will be about nine or ten miles away from the inland sea, the perimeter of which will be further blocked by an impenetrable barrier of dead, dying and decaying vegetation.

We are glad that the Tennessee Valley was mentioned because this proves our point that things could be otherwise. One writer from the States has said that the American government would not tolerate such conditions. A little effort now and our worst fears would be groundless, a little constructive work and the dam site could be clean and tidy, the ordered home of game and wildlife and a fisherman's paradise.

Your gibe at the logging industry is most unwise as it is unjust. The loggers of B.C. are as good or better than anywhere else in the world. The \$25 million mentioned has no relation to logging or logging costs. It is the estimated cost of clearing the area, burning the debris, and generally clearing the shore line. Now, we submit, that even if the cost is going to be \$25 million, these monies spent would produce revenue far in excess of the outlay—revenue from loggers, trappers and tourists, etc.

In any case, we are lately informed by the government that Alan is going to finance the clearing of the timber in the area. This is good news and will go a long way towards solving the immediate problem. We understand, too, that the B.C. government intends to send qualified engineers to the Park to look the situation over and report.

Lastly, as conservationists, we cannot act in any other way than we have done and we don't believe there is a club in the province which is not behind us in the matter.

H. J. WILDS.

Burns Lake, B.C.

**As I See It**



by *Elmore Philpot*

**Oliver Philpot Thanks**

MY GENIAL namesake, Oliver Philpot, wants me to pass along his thanks to Canadians for the reception they gave him on his sudden brief visit.

Those who heard the lecture by the famous Vancouver-born author of "Stolen Journey" tell me it was thrilling. But he has received some queries about the RAF Escaping Society.

"After the 1939-45 war, Chief of the Air Staff Sir Charles (as he then was) Portal supported establishment of the RAF Escaping Society. This was formed and includes hundreds of men who escaped from prison camps or who, having been shot down, evaded capture and returned home.

"The men in the Society meet at intervals, usually in a pub in London, but I want to stress that this is not a society simply for convivial purposes. It has a serious aim, which is to keep in touch with 'helpers'—those indomitable people in the occupied countries of Europe who risked everything to hide the Allied airmen 'on the way out'—that is, escaping from or evading the Germans.

"The most vivid diary I have ever read was that of Madame Brusselman of Brussels. She kept a flat in that city. Frequently, over a period of four years, she would be rung up: 'We have two puppies, one with a wounded paw—could you look after them?' Two allied airmen would be smuggled into her flat and hidden. All the while she was bringing up her two children, too. Every now and then a car would stop outside the building—it could only be a German car, because of curfew. The diary pauses. . . . Miraculously, it goes on. . . . Many such brave helpers were shot, Oliver tells us.

Headquarters of the RAF Escaping Society is 83, Portland Place, London W. I, England.

OLIVER writes with the same ease as he talks:

"As the train pulled out into the night, gathering strength for its onslaught on the Rockies, I looked over at the North Shore where I used to live. I thought of the changes I had seen in the city compared with when I was here 27 years ago. . . . The Lion's Gate bridge was the mere dream of visionaries then. Now what a God-like view you get from it, with the Narrows, usually a sinister body of water, lying as a placid channel far below.

"I thought of the public meeting in Vancouver which I had attended to hear what a panel of three authors and one publisher had to say. There had been a good natured sort of 'publisher-chase'. But the refreshing thing was the trenchant and extremely independent expressions of opinion. . . .

Later Oliver wrote us from Manitoba: "I am still alive, though a little prairie tired. . . . O for a mountain. I woke up today to a (very sound) reading from the Gospel of St. John—on the radio—immediately followed by a jaunty song, to the tune of Alouette:

"Al-Ka-Seltzer-speedy Al Ka Seltzer, Al Ka Seltzer smooths your pain away."

(What are you kicking about, Oliver? Haven't you heard that cleanliness is next to Godliness?)

OLIVER wanted me to pass on his answer to many Canadians who have asked him, in one way or another, about Britain's future. Far from being finished, "England," he says, "is nearing her new Elizabethan era—in the best and most vigorous sense."

**VICTORIA REPORT**

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—Session of the Legislature opening Feb. 3 should be one of the most interesting and exciting in our history. Certainly, history will be made. Since 1903, when party politics came to B.C., there have been Liberal governments and Conservative governments and a Coalition government. Now, for the first time, we have a Social Credit government and so all Canada watches us in our new experiment.

Nobody knows what's going to happen—whether or not the government can last out a session without defeat on the floor of the House, which would mean an immediate election. With one Social Creditor (Tom Irwin of Delta) as Mr. Speaker, the voting strength in the House will be equally matched between SC and CCF—18 each. So it's easy to see how important are the six Liberals, three Conservatives and Mr. Uphill, who votes as he chooses. As they go, so goes the government.

Premier Bennett seems determined to have a general election next year, if he can get away with it. He tried it this year, but it didn't work. He says there'll be an election in 1953—and that after it, there'll be 48 Social Credit MLAs. When he says that he looks as if he means it, too. Well, he has been pretty sure of himself in the past, and it must be admitted he has come out on top. However—as to 48 Social Credit MLAs—the public will have a lot to say about THAT.

**PARTIES BANNED**

The government has banned Christmas parties in government offices. Believe it or not, all the civil servants I've talked to are glad of it. They're sick and tired of Christmas Eve office parties which often start them on the road to so much Christmas celebrating that Christmas

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Day is ruined for them and their families. Of course, this doesn't only apply to civil servants. It applies to lots of people. The Christmas Eve office party, like the cocktail party, has become one of the trials of modern civilization. The new government frowns on drinking in government offices—and it should. This government is doing something about it—and the people approve. And the civil servants are delighted because this year they'll get off at noon on Christmas and New Year's Eves.

**A REAL PERSON**

Have just finished reading Bruce Hutchison's "The Incredible Canadian." It's excellent, or at least I found it so. It's beautifully done, the Hutchison words flow out; Mackenzie King becomes a real person to us, a bundle of contradictions, like most of us, only perhaps a little more so. Hutchison has treated King with sympathy and understanding, he has lifted the veil from this quiet, strong man, who somewhere along life's path suffered a blow of grief. He is (Continued on page 6)

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The question of the British West Indies becoming Canada's eleventh province has been suggested in Ottawa. It is known a change of some sort is pending. A tropical climate in effect in at least part of the dominion would be one.

—silent as darkness, rigid as ice, insensible as bronze decked with an outer amiability and glittering with the cold brilliancy of snow, a slavery without compensation or relief."—Henri Amiel, Swiss philosopher, July 1, 1888 in Journal Intime.

Why, during a theatre program, will people make their way in with an armful of light refreshments? Why, when the screen hero and heroine violently embrace, will deep sighs and smothered exclamations arise "ever and anon." And why will the party sitting behind you persist in bumping your back just enough to be annoying?

**ANYWAY, IT'S NEEDED**

It looks like the Evangeline from Boston replacing the Princess Kathleen lost in Alaska a few months ago. Wonder if Evangeline will remain. It spells an old Canadian romance. Princess Kathleen doesn't.

Donald Gordon says to replace the Prince Rupert will cost about four million and construction probably in Vancouver or Victoria. It must be difficult to find another excuse for not mentioning Rupert. There have been so many in the last 35 years.

According to Charlie McCarthy: "If I had my life to live over I'd make the same mistakes—I'd make them sooner."

"What terrible rulers the Russians would be if ever they should spread the might of their rule over our country. They would bring us a polar despotism

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