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Real Future on Waterfront

SELECTION of Prince Rupert as the point of departure for grain to Korea will confound those sceptics in our midst who are unimpressed by the possibilities of this port as a major shipping centre. So scornful are some of their arguments that it almost appears they are paid by Vancouver interests to denounce their own city at each and every opportunity.

It is to the lasting shame of the community as a whole that their words have been allowed to prevail to an extent where there is only meagre concern in the operation and activity of our grain elevator. Some even seem to think of it as a nuisance which makes annoying demands on the city's services.

Yet the truth is that the elevator represents the foundation of a business which could make Prince Rupert a great and prospering city. Comparatively small though the flow of grain through here is at present, the value of the traffic amounts to \$200,000 a month. The regular monthly payroll at the elevator is \$6,000, with approximately \$2,600 more in overtime. The power bill alone at the elevator is \$1,400 a month, and this year a local contractor performed a repair job at the dock which cost \$50,000.

But these figures are only small indications of the kind of waterfront activity Prince Rupert could expect if it took its rightful position among the busy ports of the world. Although proximity to Asian ports is often emphasized as one of its natural advantages, there is the equally important consideration of its position on the Alaskan trade route.

During the last war the Americans discovered how much more economical it was to ship through this port to Alaska than through Seattle. Those responsible for U.S. military supplies found the rail cost from eastern manufacturing centres to Prince Rupert was no greater than to Seattle, 600 miles to the south, and the long coastal trip was eliminated. In a single month more than 100,000 tons of U.S. freight arrived here in transit to Alaska, and Philip Gardner Briggs, with his improvised cargo vessel operating between here and Alaska, was causing panic among the big Seattle shipping firms.

With a revival anticipated in both the Alaskan and trans-Pacific trade, Prince Rupert can look forward to increased activity on its waterfront, which is where its real future lies. With encouragement from transportation companies and the federal and provincial governments, Prince Rupert can expect the day will come when it will be a headquarters for shipping lines and grain companies, when new elevators will be erected and the drydock will be in full operation. Affiliated industries will spring up to fill out a picture which is no idle dream.

It's in the book, and the book is being written right now.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Teach us to number our days."—Psalm 90:12.

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Opposition members of Parliament are wondering if Hon. C. G. (Chubby) Power, wartime air minister, is losing his enthusiasm for the establishment of a non-political redistribution commission.

For the past few years, he has been urging that Canada's electoral map should be drafted by an independent commission instead of a Parliamentary committee. Mr. Power has had the support of both the official Tory opposition and the CCF party in his bid. But spokesmen for both these parties contend that a resolution now on the Commons order paper in Mr. Power's name actually is a "watered-down" version of his original proposal. The resolution proposes a parliamentary committee to "inquire into methods of bringing about the adjustment of representation and a plan for the division of the provinces of Canada into electoral districts in accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the British North America Act 1867 to 1951, as enacted by the British North America Act 1946."

SUPPORT LEGISLATION

Conservative and CCF spokesmen take the position that it's not necessary to refer the question of redistribution to a committee now. They feel the time has arrived for the government to introduce legislation to give

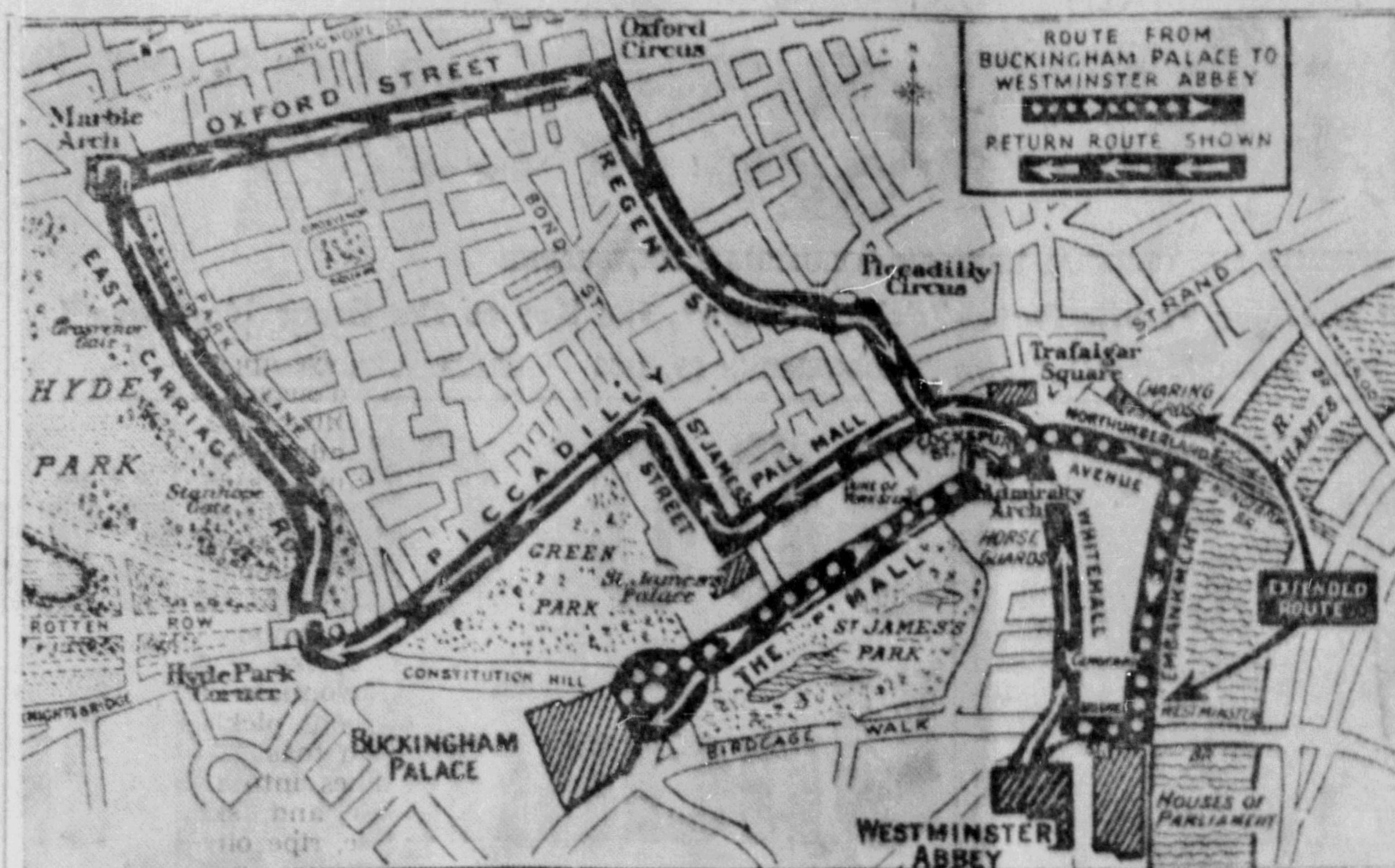
the job to an independent commission. But they won't oppose the part of Mr. Power's resolution asking for a committee.

The rest of the resolution has more in it than meets the eye, and it will be vigorously opposed at least by the CCF party. Opposition members are waiting for a statement by Mr. Power on the section relating to "the division of the provinces of Canada into electoral districts," because it appears to reject any protective device to prevent a province from losing a large number of seats.

OPPOSE PROTECTION

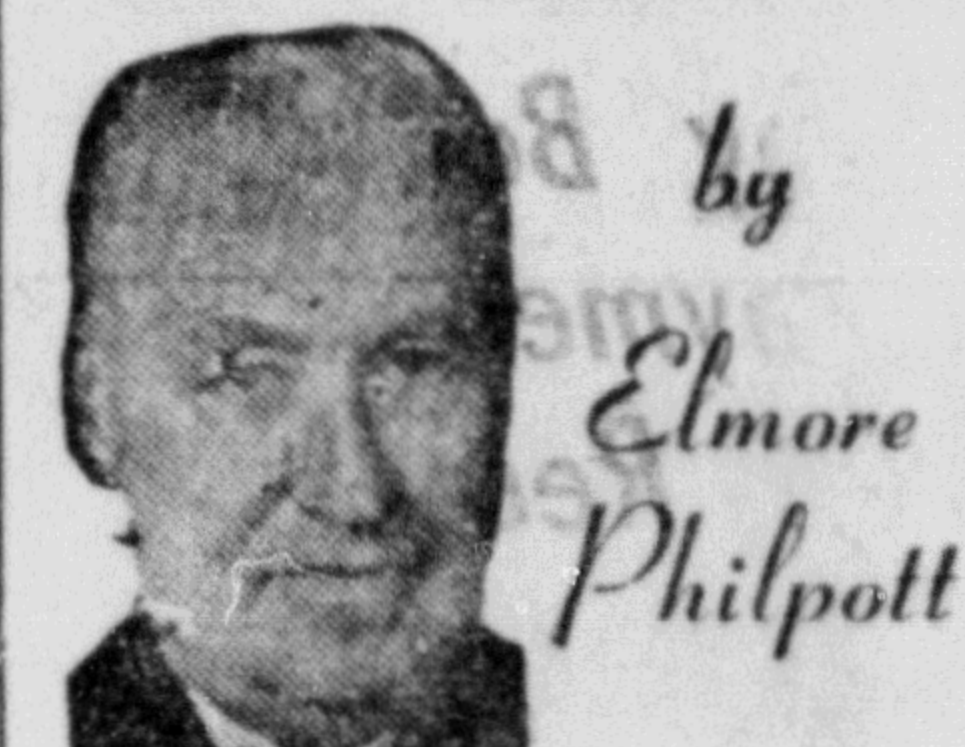
CCF members said the wording of the resolution indicates that Mr. Power is opposed to the protection given to Saskatchewan at the last session. Under that protective device, Saskatchewan lost three seats, instead of five.

In addition, the CCF members complain that while the resolution apparently rejects this protection for Saskatchewan, it approves protection of the same type for Prince Edward Island. At present a protective device states that no province may have fewer Members than Senators. Prince Edward Island has four Members as a result, though its population doesn't warrant two. When the resolution comes up, look for another lively debate on the thorny problem of redistribution.



THOUSANDS MORE SCHOOL CHILDREN will be able to see Queen Elizabeth on her way from Buckingham Palace to the coronation in Westminster Abbey following a decision to extend the procession route. After leaving Trafalgar Square the procession route now will go by way of Northumberland avenue, Victoria embankment and Bridge street, instead of Whitehall.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

France Warns Us

ANOTHER government has fallen in France, as so many have fallen before. The chief difference is that this last one remained in office several months, not just weeks.

Canada should take warning from France. It could happen here. Indeed, there are plain signs that the things have already begun to happen in Canada which could sooner or later make this country politically as unstable as France.

France is a highly civilized, highly educated, mature nation. Most French people, and many others, believe that France is the most civilized, the most cultured of all the nations on earth. Yet, because France has allowed such a hodge-podge of parties, France in recent decades has never had strong, stable, sure government.

NO MATTER how you look at it, the democratic system cannot work well except under a realistic two party system. It does not matter what the two parties are called. But one must be a party which is pushing forward in the direction of some practical goal of improved life for the people. The other must be the party of conservatism—which says, whoa, no, go slow—the party which says, "What we have, we hold."

You have these two elements in any family and successful business, and you have to have them in any true democratic nation.

WHEN you have two vital parties such as in Britain or the U.S.A., you can always be sure that all sides of public issues will be thoroughly argued. You allow for the working out of one of the most powerful principles of all human life that "It's time for a change." People get tired of going ahead too far too fast. They get even more fed up with not going ahead at all.

IN CANADA in our own times it seems to me that the Liberals never should have left room for the CCF to arise on their left. That is, the Liberals should have been so vitally, intelligently progressive that the more socially progressive people, such as trade unions and farm organizations, would never have felt the need to form a new, more leftist party of their own.

Likewise with the right wing parties. As an outstanding B.C. oil company executive has told the U.S.A., the Social Credit party is much further on the conservative side than is the party headed by Mr. Drew. I think all Canada will soon see that there is not room for TWO conservative parties occupying the same field.

WHEN the British Liberal party would not move ahead as fast as the great mass of the progressives wanted it to move they simply voted the Liberals out of the picture, and Labor became the great champion of the common people left of centre.

The British know by an uncanny instinct that democracy is a two way road, and that more than two parties eventually stalls all traffic.

The Letter K before the licence number of an airplane means it is licensed for experimental purposes.

HERE And NOW

By LARRY STANWOOD

That loud thump re-echoing throughout the land is commonly known as the "let-down" or aftermath of Christmas. It happens every year at this time with much the same effect everywhere—the reaction after the climax of frenzied last-minute shopping, house decorating, gift wrapping, and making turkey stuffing in the small hours of the morning.

One general reaction is a yen for recuperation, or probably more accurately termed a strong aversion against work. For a few days almost everywhere, and for most of a month generally, the tempo of life slows down to a semblance of dormancy.

Another general reaction comes with the problem of removing seasonal decorations—how long should they stay up? When do they begin resembling election pictures of candidates after their usefulness has or hasn't served? Such reactions are evident:

IN BUSINESS

First indication* is failure of most businesses to open up shop today. With only one day separating three holidays, most places disregarded that Saturday usually is the money-maker of the week.

Of course, they say: Who's got any money left after Christmas? It looks like a question, but it might well be a positive statement.

So with exception of a few food stores—some people will have to eat—the downtown area today was quite dead.

This lack of money after Christmas manifests itself in business generally throughout January. To overcome its extremes, store-operators open their hearts and generously lay off a dollar here, two there, and more on another item and declare a "clearance sale."

Nearly every store-owner has clearance sales—with exception of food stores. Some may think it's a pity such sales couldn't come up before instead of after Christmas.

After a month or so of playing his cards pretty close to the vest—precisely what his customer is doing—the businessman finds he is slowly overcoming the seasonal depression.

A month's salary and wages have filtered through the hands of his customers by this time to start them thinking of spending again.

IN THE HOME

Mom and Dad are so thankful there is Boxing Day after Christmas. In most cases, they would welcome three or four Boxing Days in which to catch up on sleep lost Christmas Eve and Christmas night. But likely, too, they'd like the day after Christmas to be named something else so they wouldn't have to try explaining its meaning at breakfast. Besides there may be boys in the family who take the name of the day literally and begin pounding each other into pulp over the living room and under the Christmas tree.

Under - Christmas cleanup around the house; Mom finds, is

London Fogs Killed 1,500

LONDON (AP)—The recent record fogs that blacked out London killed up to 1,500 Britons.

Health Minister Ian MacLeod told the House of Commons deaths in London during the foggy week which ended Dec. 13 totalled 4,703 compared with 1,882 the corresponding week of 1951.

"The cold weather had already caused some increases, but a large part of these increases must be attributed to fog," MacLeod said.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Today we have no idea of what may be developing in Western Canada. Last Christmas foot and mouth disease details couldn't be foreseen either.

During last November living costs advanced one tenth of a point. Not much, but the cost of living for most of the next four weeks was little short of staggering.

It was some time during last month that a couple of Michigan men were arrested for the theft of bacon from a storage car. In other words it never pays to take sides.

DO IT NOW

Queen Elizabeth gave her first broadcast December 25, and it is estimated forty million heard her. Her Majesty has youth, health, and a high, clear and distinct voice. So best to witness this coronation. The one to follow the June ceremony may be a lengthy way off.

FOR 1953

'Twas the week before Christmas And from out of the house The family cat scurried And a badly scared mouse.

Sixty per cent casualties among Canadians in Korea—and still it's not a war?—Wind-star.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.—Ex.

Beds in Vancouver hospitals have gone up a whole dollar. But B.C. is the sort of a province where many a fellow has been comfortable with a blanket.

instead of a bed, the ground for a floor, and stars for a roof.

Not quite New Year but we are nevertheless beginning to feel the faint touch of 1953. Time to think less of the spiritual and more of what's directly ahead. That's where the live interest is, or shortly will be.

Churchill, announces Downing Street, will visit Washington soon. Inauguration of the Republicans, the coming of Eisenhower and the going of Truman—Great Britain's premier has picked an interesting hour in which to hang up his hat. His party will arrive early in January.

The hardest thing about making money last is making it first.

Some visitors stay longer in an hour than others can in a week.—Life Today.

RUPERT RADIO & ELECTRIC

appreciates the ever-increasing patronage it has enjoyed in 1952 and extends to all Friends and Customers

OUR BEST WISHES FOR 1953



A sterling silver coffee pot by Thomas Moore, England, 1757. A valued piece, now in the O. E. Allan collection, Vancouver.

Sterling
LONDON DRY GIN
the Hallmark of Quality



A distinguished product of
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTILLERY CO. LTD.
New Westminster, B.C.

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(Reading left to right)

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The Honourable Philip A. Gagliardi, Minister of Public Works.

The Honourable Robert W. Bonner, Q.C., B.A., LL.B., Attorney General.

The Honourable W. Ralph Chetwynd, Minister of Railways, Minister of Trade and Industry, and Minister of Fisheries.

The Honourable Wesley D. Black, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The Honourable W. Kenneth Kiernan, Minister of Agriculture.

The Honourable Robert E. Sommers, Minister of Lands and Forests and Minister of Mines.

The Honourable Mrs. Tilly J. Rolston, Minister of Education.

The Honourable Lyle Wicks, Minister of Labour.

The Honourable Einar M. Gunderson, C.A., Minister of Finance.

The Honourable Eric C. F. Martin, Minister of Health and Welfare.

A Happy New Year

The Best Wishes of your Government, inspired by the abiding faith we share with you in the future of this great Province, go out to one and all in the confident hope that your earnest endeavours will be rewarded with the blessing of

A Prosperous New Year