

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia...

A Job Well Done

AS THE FLOW of mail slows to normal with the passing of Christmas, a sigh of relief is almost audible from the direction of the post office.

With no house-to-house delivery, the difficulty of clearing the mail on time assumes fantastic proportions. Many who knew there were parcels or letters awaiting them no doubt postponed picking them up to avoid getting trapped in the crowd.

To the credit of our post office employees it must be said that they kept their heads and their patience. Of all the forms of confusion that characterize the Christmas season, none is probably more pronounced for the average citizen than the sending or receiving of mail.

To maintain order and efficiency in such conditions is a stern trial for any postal employee, yet our local personnel performed it with cheerfulness and dispatch.

As Postmaster Burgess remarks, however, delivery would have been more rapid if the door-to-door service had been in effect. From now on the speed with which it is introduced depends on the public alone.

No Need For Alarm

FOR THOSE ALARMISTS who predict a condition of riotous revelry and saloons on every block if sale of liquor by the glass is allowed in B.C., it is worth noting the experience of the State of Washington which three years ago took the same step that we are considering now.

During the last fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, the State Liquor Board found it necessary to crack down on only 17 public cocktail bars out of the 430 that were established. That was less than four per cent, compared to penalties imposed on nine per cent of other places selling beer and wine.

The record is attributed to the standards set up from the outset. One requirement is that an establishment do at least half of its gross business in food. If inquiries show that food sales have dropped below that mark, further investigation is made.

The fear that there will be too many bars is not supported by the Washington findings. Although the law there allows one bar for each 1,500 persons in the state, the actual ratio is much lower. On the basis of the latest population count, it is estimated there could be 1,500 public and private cocktail bars instead of the 705 now operating.

It would seem that the situation in Washington offers us a more useful guide than the frantic outcry of those who have nothing to back them up besides prejudice.

REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT

By Edward T. Applewhite, M.P., Skeena

Just before the House adjourned for the Christmas recess, we took a few minutes out to mark the 35th anniversary of the election of "Chubby" Power, the dean of the House.

Mr. St. Laurent said he was sure every member of the House would be appreciative if the Speaker would allow us to take a few moments at that time to pay a tribute of felicitations and good wishes to the Member for Quebec South.

Mr. Power was one of that brilliant quartet of Power brothers who spread the fame of the real amateur athletes of Quebec throughout the country by their achievements in the hockey arenas of that time and by their valiant efforts to bring to Quebec as often as possible the great Stanley Cup.

The Prime Minister said the people of Quebec were thrilled at Mr. Power's gallant conduct in the armed forces during the First Great War and certainly

were distressed when they heard that he was wounded overseas twice, once so grievously that he had to be invalided back home.

There is no doubt, of course, that at his first election he was aided in his campaign by the high esteem in which his family had been held for many years by the people of the city of Quebec; but it was not long before he won personal approval from his constituents and among his fellow members of parliament throughout the whole Canadian nation.

It has grown constantly as the years of his service to the Canadian public added themselves to each other.

And now may I wish to everyone in Skeena, whoever it may be, a very Happy New Year. May our district prosper (as I feel sure it will), and may your personal lives be full of happiness and cheer throughout 1953.

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Gravediggers at Work

THERE IS many a true word spoken in jest. When a cabinet minister told his party convention that he was the Chief Gravedigger for the Social Credit party, he was wrong only in one word: he should have said "Gravedigger OF the party."

Never in any province of Canada was there such gross mismanagement and ruinous blundering as there has been in the past six months in the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service. The incoming government took over a system that was just getting solidly established. In spite of minor faults and early difficulties the system was clearly doing the two things it was devised to do:

- 1. It enabled sick or injured persons to get hospital care without being financially ruined. 2. It put the hospitals on a sound, self-sustaining basis, and averted the outright bankruptcy which faced many hospitals in B.C. when the system was introduced, mainly to avert that very thing.

IN CHILDISH haste to copy everything from Alberta, regardless of different circumstances, the new government shouted to high heaven that nobody was going to be taken to court if he or she owed back premiums on B.C.H.I.S., and that nobody was going to be compelled to pay premiums if he or she did not feel like it.

Then, faced with the fact that if they failed to collect the \$100 in back premiums from those who owed them, and could well pay, they would be obviously bound to refund the \$100 to each person who had paid up, the new government tried to climb back over the fence.

The result was exactly what should have been foreseen: many people who do not work in establishments where Hospital Insurance premiums are automatically deducted from payrolls have simply quit paying.

THUS THE PEOPLE ON PAY-ROLL DEDUCTION ARE SOAKED GOING AND COMING. They are directly compelled to pay their own premiums, as before. But as citizens and taxpayers they are indirectly liable to make good the deficits piling up on the hospital scheme in general. They are paying their own full share in advance. They will be liable for half the share of those who don't pay, in arrears.

THE CRAZIEST gravedigging is the latest. Faced with the plain fact that its crude policies are heading the scheme toward ruin, the government is passing the cost of its own blunders to the hospitals. It has informed them that no extra money will be forthcoming for 1953, regardless of rising costs. The result is drastic curtailment of staff and services.

A situation is shaping up where the provincial government itself may be forced to take over or close a good many hospitals.

EQUALLY bad is the crude dismantling of the fine full-time Labor Relations Board which safely brought this province through one of the most difficult periods in history. Compare B.C. with Quebec and you get the true picture. B.C. long led all Canada.

This province was transformed in ten years from the most turbulent, industrially, to the most harmonious of provinces with mass production industries. The new government has tossed all that out the window.

BULBS GIVEN TO BRITAIN START IN ROYAL NURSERIES

HONOR DRIVERS

VANCOUVER (C) — Names of hundreds of safe automobile drivers are to be presented to the provincial government by the British Columbia Automobile Association in its campaign to lower auto insurance. Drivers claiming a year of accident-free driving will be given special stickers for their car windows.



FATHER GEORGE HART, 36-year-old Roman Catholic padre, makes his "parish calls" by helicopter. He is shown being pulled back into the helicopter from the gun turret of a ship.

Padre Swings Among Ships To Say Mass to Sailors

VANCOUVER (C) — A Roman Catholic padre who has been making his "parish calls" by helicopter is resting at his home here.

Father George Hart spent 10 months as a Canadian chaplain with the United Nations naval forces off Korea. His chief charges were the men of the Canadian destroyers—the Cayuga, Athabaskan, Nootka, Iroquois and Crusader, which rotate with others so that there are always three Canadian destroyers serving Korea.

On his way to say mass Father Hart would drop on to the ships from the end of a steel cable suspended from the helicopter.

In bad weather he came close to being smashed to pieces several times as he dangled perilously close to the steel decks and superstructure. On a take-off, the helicopter pilot would sometimes pull away suddenly and leave him dangling a scant 20 feet above the icy seas.

The 35-year-old Franciscan priest isn't very impressed by his own exploits. "I didn't do anything dangerous," he said, "but it was certainly interesting and I loved every minute of it."

He came home happy about the morale and bearing of the Canadian sailors in the Far East.

What this country really needs is more people raising beans and fewer people spilling them.

Field Marshal Montgomery, who can wear nine rows of service ribbons will be in Canada next April. Winston Churchill is due in the United States early in January, prime purpose being to meet General Eisenhower. He will likewise confer with Mr. Truman. Last week it was announced in Washington that the United States would recruit 50,000 fresh troops for Korea. And so, how now?

For about \$1,100 (with everything taken care of from beginning to end) Canadians can sail from Quebec to Paris in April, see Europe and the Mediterranean, and be in London in time for the big show. And of course don't imagine months of travel can dull the edge of a coronation.

Hard work has been recommended as a good thing for arthritis sufferers. Sounds like prescribing a mustard plaster for sunburn.

CHINA, AND CHINA Commercial men sometimes cannot help feeling annoyed. There was, for example, the careful fellow who labelled his bags: "Care—China." And the whole darned lot was shipped direct to Hong Kong.

DIDN'T HEAR ONE

All sorts of Christmas gifts were purchased but there must have been numerous parents well along in years who could not but wonder what had ever become of the dollar watch—non-Swiss and able to be heard 50 feet away.

LONDON (Reuters) — Three hundred fifty bulbs given to Britain by the government and people of British Columbia are being cared for in the royal nurseries before being planted in London parks.

The gift was made to W. J. Hepburn, superintendent of the central royal parks, by W. A. McAdam, British Columbia agent-general here. The flowers will be labelled "British Columbia bulbs" once they are planted.

Crime Rate Increases In Canada

"Crime is a major industry on the North American continent," according to Dr. Robert O. Jones, professor of psychiatry at Dalhousie University.

"We in Canada, like to pride ourselves on the fact that our situation is better than in the United States, but we still have no trouble keeping our courts busy."

This, he submits, offers ample evidence that our methods of dealing with crime have been notoriously unsatisfactory. Our crime rate has gone steadily up, and a very large number of people go right on repeating crimes despite having been exposed to all the reforms of our system. So any thinking person has a right to ask whether we can not do something better, and perhaps cut down on crime through prevention.

"I don't think all crime is primarily psychiatric in significance," Dr. Jones said in an article in Health Magazine. "I have a feeling that a good deal of what might be called 'organized crime' is carried on by smart and clever people whose personalities are not distinctly different from those of successful business or professional men."

"They have reasoned that an activity outside the law will bring them more profits in a easier and quicker way. These men may be lacking in some sort of moral sense, but I don't believe they are mentally ill."

"I'd have some difficulty in drawing sharp lines between the moral sense of the bootlegger and that of his customer, between the race track bookmaker and the man who gambles, or perhaps even better the activities of the ring that furnishes protection and certain smart business practices. People like those are problems for society as a whole and not particularly for specialists in the more limited field of psychiatry."

Dr. Jones goes on to say, however, that there is a considerable proportion of crime which can best be looked upon as indicating some type of sick personality. That is, a criminal acting in the way he does because of certain defects within himself, which really and honestly prevent him from doing much better.

"I think if anyone looked at the roster of crimes to come before any court sitting, he'd agree that at least a third of them were not the acts of reasonable people, but of people acting in a very stupid way or acting in a way which suggested that they were emotionally upset."

Lay-Away Flying

SYDNEY, Australia (CP) — Trans-Australia Airlines has introduced a lay-away holiday flight plan. TAA offers to arrange a complete holiday in Australia for a small deposit and a few shillings each week.

Advertisement for Canadian Investment Fund by Calvin Bullock Ltd. Includes a map of Canada and text: "LATEST REPORT Ask your Investment Dealer for the Latest Report and Prospectus of CANADIAN INVESTMENT FUND CALVIN BULLOCK Ltd."

Advertisement for Corby's beer. Includes illustration of a man and a woman, and text: "Before they say goodbye... SAY Corby's SPECIAL SELECTED • ROYAL RESERVE • OLD RYE 52-10 AM This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia."

OTTAWA DIARY

The late Clifford Clark was a university professor who came to Ottawa in 1931 to do a six-months' job for the government—and stretched the job out into more than 21 years of employment.

His sudden death in Chicago from heart failure administered a real shock to the Capital. For Clifford Clark was no ordinary civil servant. As Deputy Minister of Finance, he was one of the two key figures—Governor Graham Towers of the Bank of Canada is the other—in the tendering of the expert advice upon which government economic and taxation policies are financed.

An anonymous figure whose presence in the background was realized by only a few people, Clifford Clark was the man behind the news in the case of almost every major economic and taxation announcement made by Conservative and Liberal governments alike since 1931.

It was the late Prime Minister R. B. Bennett who first brought Clifford Clark to Ottawa from Queen's University, where he was Dean of the Arts Faculty and head of the Economics Department. Bennett wanted him for a purely temporary job for six months' duration preparing the groundwork for the Imperial Economic Conference of 1932. It was only because the job was temporary that Clark accepted it. Queen's University was not only his Alma Mater but also the professional love of his life. Once before he had left it to become investment advisor to the great Cleveland Banking House of Messrs. Struss and Company, and later to become, at President Hoover's request, one of the chiefs of his anti-depression agency, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Washington. But Clifford Clark found none of these big-time financial engagements as satisfactory as teaching Queen's students, and in 1930 he returned to his university post, determined not to leave it again.

Instead of which he never went back to it after the day when he threw a few spare shirts, socks, and ties into a week-end case and came to Ottawa to carry out his "temporary" mission.

Historic Projects Shrewd "R. B." Bennett lost no time in sizing up the exceptional

abilities of his temporary employee. Clifford Clark, in part, came speedily under the spell of the dynamic and dynamic Prime Minister, and with such courage and against the forces of opposition, he decided to leave Ottawa and accept the post of Deputy Minister of Finance, which he tendered the day after his resignation from the National Housing Act. No other such substantial monuments to his career.

Too late for Agri...

Even the rowers who topped armor-plated knights at Agri...

range of a modern armor-plated knight at Agri...

box used at a recent British chery championship. It has winning arrow a distance of yards. Side of a special also the bow had a female strength thirty-two tons!

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