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Down to Earth

IT IS just as well that some of the extravagant anticipatory statements that have been going the rounds about Aluminum Co. of Canada project at Kitimat should be exploded as Mr. Davis and Mr. Powell have done in Victoria.

Commenting on the city-of-50,000-people idea, which has been extant, Mr. Davis says it may be a generation before the maximum of employment is reached at Kitimat. Mr. Powell says that some 1200 or 1300 men may be employed when the plant come into production in 1954.

These statements may moderate some of the excitement about the great metropolis that is to be established at Kitimat—a city that was to be the third in size in British Columbia, presumably leaving Prince Rupert in the background.

A payroll of 1200 or 13000 at Kitimat smelter, plus the 200 in hydro-electric operation, is very substantial—something about the same as Columbia Cellulose is providing between Prince Rupert and Terrace. But it will not mean a city of 50,000 people. Of course, that payroll will support possibly twice or more than number in subsidiary business and services so Kitimat can be reasonably expected to develop before long into a city of 10,000 or more.

It would be very nice to have a new city of 50,000 at Kitimat at once. However, it is just as well that we should be told now that it is not going to be that big for a long time. We shall not then get so excited about it and become disappointed later.

Between now and plant completion time in 1954, there will be a major construction boom when a large number more than the eventual operating crew will be employed and there will be extreme pressure on transportation and other facilities. But that is to a great extent transient and should not be counted as a stable permanence.

We can, of course, make the most of the boom in a sound, thrifty way, realizing that it will not last and that we will in a couple of years or so have to get down to normal, sound operation. We will be happier and better off in the end if we look at the thing in that light.

Education and Discipline

PARENTS, on the least excuse, and sometimes for no obvious reason whatever, are apt to talk about their children, and from that point of departure it is a short step to modern education. It is a subject on which everyone has theories, even the childless, but it is of more absorbing interest to parents than to others.

Though none of the theorists agrees with any other on all points, there does appear to be agreement on the fact that something is wrong with education. There is also agreement, at least among those who are municipal taxpayers, on the point that education costs are too high. The parent may complain about the high cost of garbage removal, police services or fire protection, but he knows that he does get some tangible benefits from them. He is often hard put to it to see, on looking over little Seraphita's school report, that he is getting any return of value for the money he spends in school taxes.

Moreover while some improvement can be secured through complaints to authorities when other services are not performed, the only way to remedy Seraphita's lack of enthusiasm is by persuasion or punishment of Seraphita herself.

Punishments for neglect of school work are unquestionably lighter than in the good old days. Corporal punishment is relatively rare in modern schools, not that the ability of pupils to drive a teacher mad has declined, but because parents generally are apt to raise a fuss about having their child whipped by a stranger. Punishment by detention is just as hard on the teacher as on the pupil, so detentions are often short.

There is no need to advocate return to the system of severe punishments in school. Life punishes the ignorant and undisciplined eventually. Witness the old-fashioned chastisements still prepared for nations and persons who refuse to learn the lessons of history.

Scripture Passage for Today

"He looked for a city . . . whose builder and maker is God."—Heb. 11:10.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Who Will Get Her?

GULL LAKE, Alberta.—Lassie, the year-old collie who has lost her owners, is now very much a part of this rapidly growing family at the Alberta School of Religion.

There is friendly rivalry between two minister's families as to which will provide the new home for the lovely canine lass. Three little girls from Medicine Hat claim ownership of the front three-quarters of the dog. But tiny little David, from Wainwright, clings to Lassie's tail and insists:

"She's MY dog."
Incidentally, Lassie is very much the outdoor girl. You just can't entice her inside any kind of a building. There's a story there—surely somebody must have "done her wrong."

I DON'T know how even Lassie can remain the outdoor girl much longer in these parts. Even these mid-August nights are blither cold. We pile on all the blankets we can get, and sleep with double layers of clothes on. Still we are cold. However it seems to have done most of us good so far—maybe because it gives us such sharp appetites.

THE FARMERS are more and more coming into these gatherings, with attendance swelling every day.

I have been mildly kidding some of these friendly farmers, like this:

"What's the matter with you fellows anyway? How come you are not producing enough butter? Why should there be a butter shortage even in Alberta? How come that even you farmers are eating margarine these days?"

Well, you get many answers. The main one is that more and more farmers are specializing on production. That is, many farmers now produce only grain. Others produce no grain for sale but only for stock food. But most of these concentrate on beef cattle and hogs. More and more of them have gone out of the fluid milk sale business.

Perhaps the most important fact of all is the swift increase in the production of condensed and powdered milk. Right around here more and more farmers find it pays to sell all their milk to the "condenseries," as they call them. Those who ship to creameries have an arrangement that they can buy back butter at a lower rate than stores charge. But it is a fact that many farmers are eating margarine, especially when they have to provide food for hired men, threshing crews and whatnot.

I ASK the farmers hereabouts what size of farm is now the best paying proposition. Most of them say a full section, or section and a quarter. That is, 720 acres or a bit more. I ask what would that kind of farm represent in the way of cash investment. They say somewhere around \$50,000.

They tell me you just can't farm in the modern manner without at least \$15,000 worth of farm machinery—and yet the astonishing thing is that even such big farms, with all this costly equipment, are still family affairs. A father and son work many a farm, with one or two hired men hired for brief periods each year.

IN THESE parts they build the best looking fireplaces I have ever seen. Instead of stone or brick they use petrified wood, which is quite plentiful in spots, here.

But, reader, do not hop into your car and drive like mad for Alberta, hoping to take home enough such material for your own chimney base.

They have a law here, they tell me, which says you can't just come and get it, to take away.



"We decided that's the place for it, the way the world's acting!"

B.C. MEANS "BOOM COUNTRY"

(Continued from page 1)

000, mining \$135,000,000, agriculture \$131,000,000, and fishing \$88,000,000.

Bank clearings were nearly \$1,000,000,000 greater than ever before.

British Columbia's industrial empire builders are only beginning to realize the fabulous potentialities that lie within the province's 363,255 square miles of river, forest and valley.

Man has hardly yet looked at that half of the province north from the Skeena to the 60th parallel of latitude.

Today, men are hacking a road through the wilderness on the northern coast where a \$550,000,000 aluminum industry will rise.

Recently brought into production are a \$35,000,000 cellulose plant near Prince Rupert; a \$19,000,000 sulphate mill and a \$10,000,000 pulp mill on Vancouver Island, and a \$1,300,000 plywood plant at Quesnel in the northern interior. Another \$11,000,000 is being spent for newspaper mill at Duncan Bay on Vancouver Island.

MORE LEAD OUTPUT

In 11 years, capital invested in the pulp and paper industry in B. C. has risen from \$58,000,000 to \$225,000,000. But the surface has barely been scratched. B. C. has 27 per cent of Canada's softwood suitable for pulp. Quebec, which produces more than half of Canada's total output of 8,000,000 tons annually, has 35 per cent.

Far in the southern interior, Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, biggest lead-zinc-chemicals producer in the world, is planning a \$65,000,000 expansion. Abandoned mines are being brought back into production and new power projects are going ahead.

A steel industry appears not far off for B. C. Demand for steel is growing and the navy is spending millions for new warships being built at Victoria and North Vancouver. The hunt for iron ore, oil and gas is being expanded and quickened.

Construction crews are laying steel for the northward extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to Prince George.

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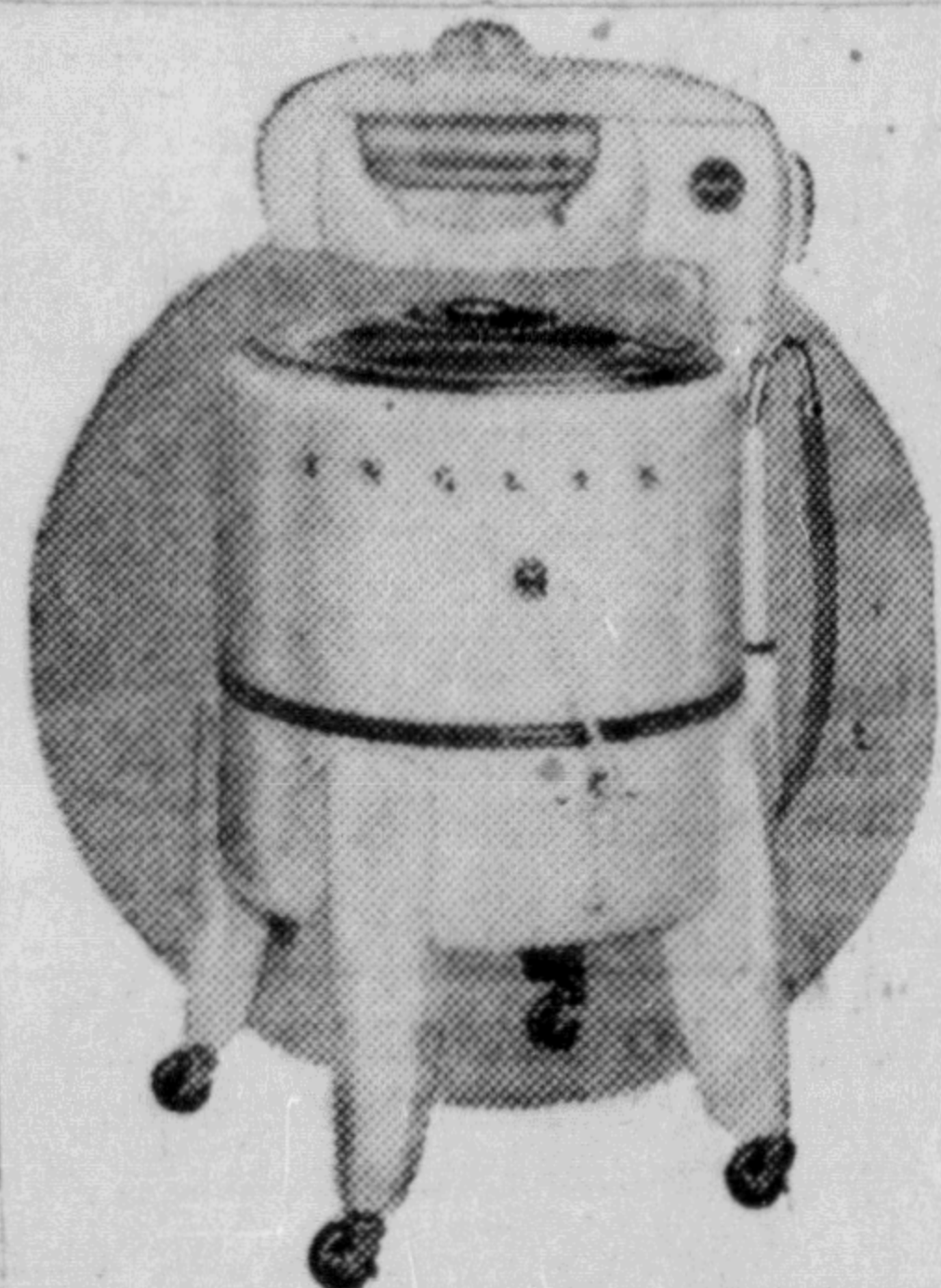
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BOOST THE BAND

A permanent site for band concerts on the railway reserve is recommended by Peter Lien. The ground has a beautiful view and is situated convenient to the very heart of the city. Unless some action is taken in the way of encouragement and co-operation, it is indeed uncertain how much longer these concerts will be held. If Mr. Lien's suggestion is followed, the site made more attractive and comfortable and police attention be given to the bandmen will have, or should have, little cause to complain about the smallness of public attendance.

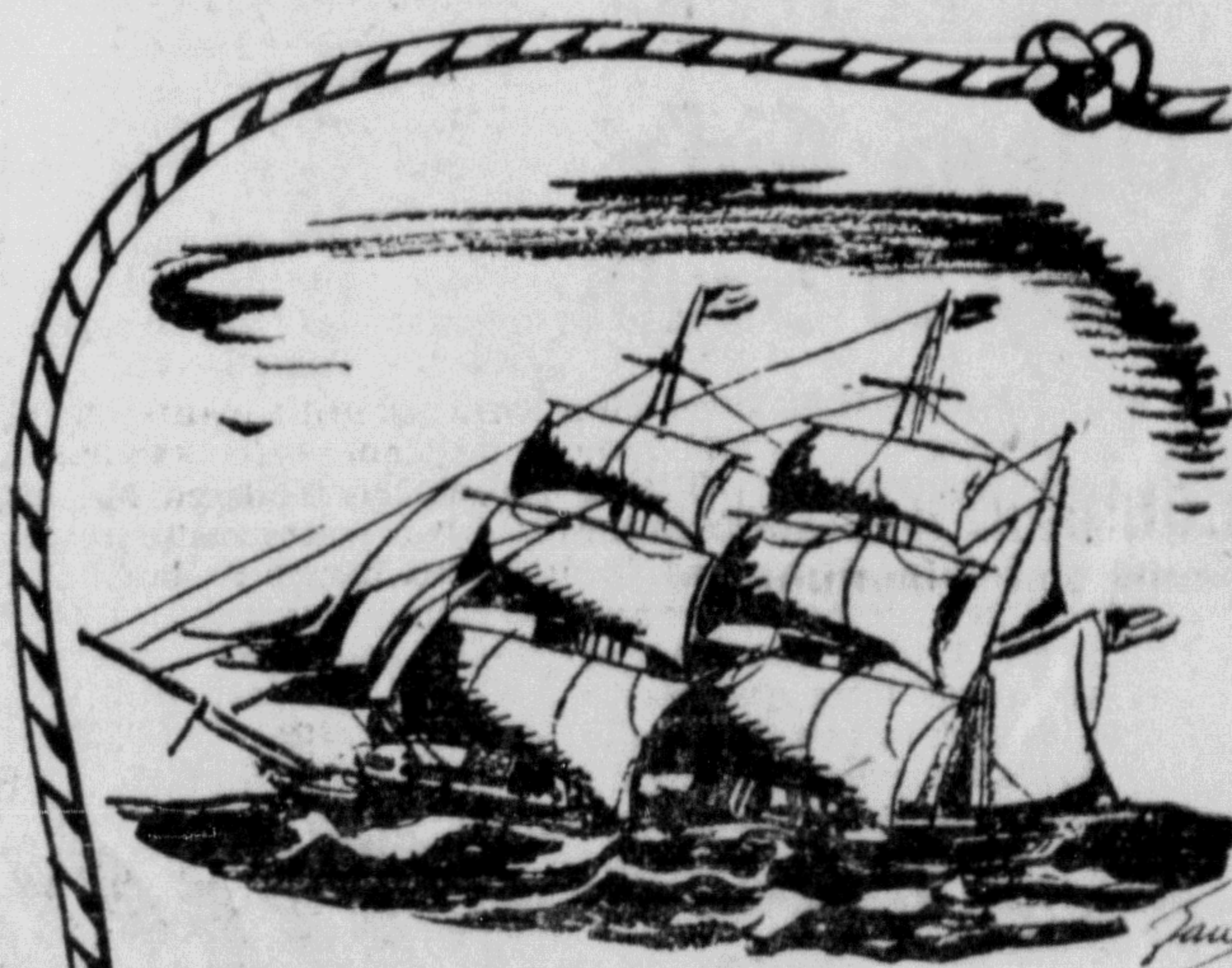
ALL DEVOURING

Wild life in the north will in all likelihood suffer severely from the effect of the forest fires, reports the member for Keena, A. A. Apulewante. It can well be believed. Wilderness is home and food for the animals and birds, just as much as aca and dinner tables are to human beings. Flames can be equally felt.

HEARD ON THIRD

A couple of prosperous looking tourists were in earnest conversation Thursday forenoon. This was on Third Avenue near Sixth Street.

"I know the last time I was



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