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## No Time For Speeding

THE Department of Public Works reports a marked tendency to disregard the formal published notice to motorists to keep down their speed on the highway between the city and Port Edward during reconstruction work, especially between the time when the preliminary oil coat is put on and the black topping takes place.

It should not be necessary to emphasize the need for this surface being carefully preserved so that the subsequent paving may be guaranteed. High speed at this time, it is pointed out, develops potholes which become enlarged by the penetration of water with ultimate disintegration.

Such speeding is not only discouraging for the departmental officials who are hoping for a good paving job but it is short-sighted on the part of the drivers who are quick to complain at poor roads and are always advocating better ones.

Of course, there are always the irresponsible speedsters, youngsters who may not know any better and oldsters who certainly should. Officials are hopeful that they will take a little thought that eventual mutual benefit and enjoyment may be the result. Thirty miles is the limit.



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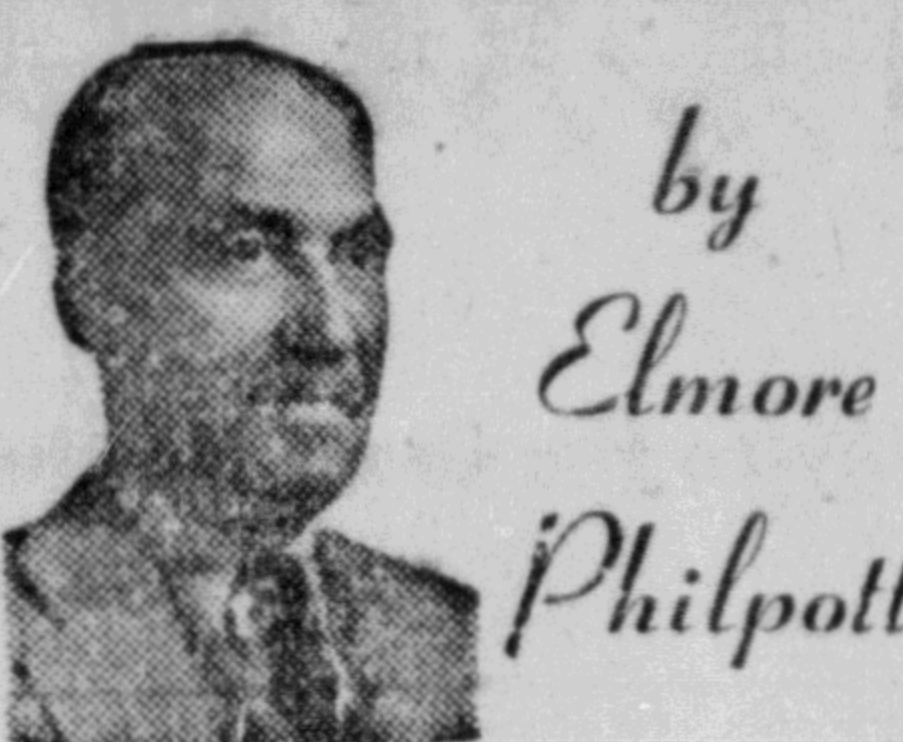
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## As I See It



Barley Coffee

FIRST TIP on how to make a coffee substitute comes from a real old prairie veteran—Charlie Bullock. He says they used barley, not wheat, back in the old days.

Simply take the barley grains, put them in a flat pan, and roast in the oven till they are dark brown. Then grind them and use them just as you would coffee.

A prairie lady says to use barley, but be sure you leave the husks on—it is better that way. The catch in that will be that city folks won't be able to get it with the husks on.

Another reader says somebody is making a cheap coffee substitute from carrots. She promises to dig up the exact process and when I get it I will pass it on.

AS I READ the signs on the horizon I think that most people are going to be very hard pressed to make ends meet in the next few months.

There are only two favored classes in the country today—the rich business men, who are now reaping profits beyond their wildest dreams; and members of the most powerful unions which are in a position to boost their wages almost into line with soaring living costs.

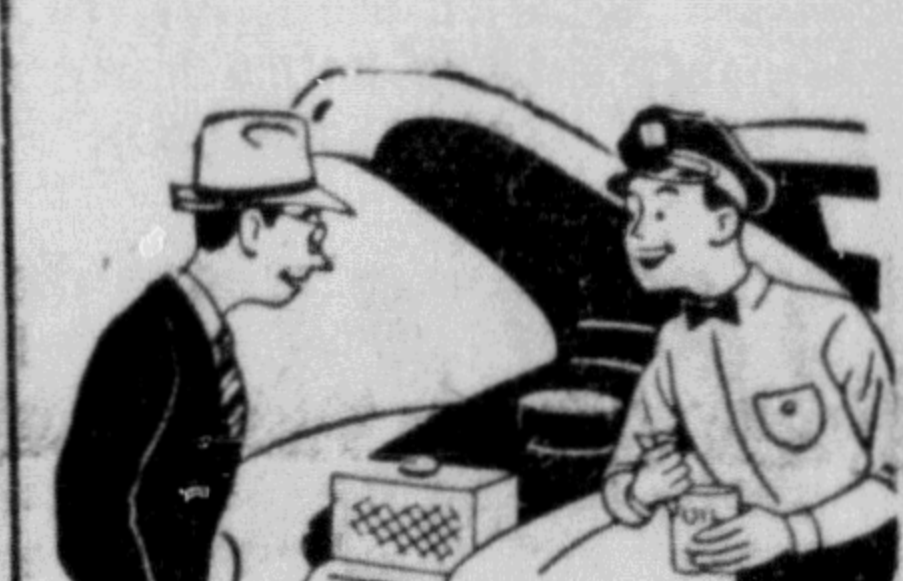
But the unprotected people who do not belong to such unions are simply out of luck. These include all sorts of white-collar workers in business organizations, also teachers, preachers and pensioners. But even more they include small business enterprises.

In many lines of business the small man has already been pushed, not just to the wall, but right through it and out of the picture.

THE BEST off family today is the one with a fair cash income, but which lives outside the city where it can produce part of its own food.

When we were raising our three youngsters, and sighing at times at the high cost of food, I used to ask myself how in heaven my mother and father ever managed to bring up no less than thirteen.

But now I see it wasn't so mysterious. We, the earlier tribe, lived on the outskirts of Hamilton, Ontario. We had one acre of ground, with just about every known fruit tree, also nuts. We kept one or two cows, pigs, chickens, and of course a horse. Even at that our grocery bills



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## VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

Million Dollar Headaches—Average Salaries Going Up

VICTORIA.—One financial headache after another has been the lot of the Coalition government in recent years. Despite the millions rolling into the provincial treasury, there's always the possibility of a deficit—an unbalanced budget—because expenses mount daily.

The government now has to find another \$2,000,000 a year for the civil servants. To try and make up an effort will be made to cut down the civil service. There's no doubt now that it's overstuffed. There's too much empire building. Give the average man a little authority and he wants to hire staff—and does so, unless he's carefully watched. A few years of such empire building and the civil service is heavily overloaded which adds up to inefficiency.

Matter of old-age pensions is one of the government's biggest current headaches. In January Ottawa will start paying pensions of \$40 a month to everyone over 70, irrespective of private income. That's fine by the B.C. government—but what about the \$10-a-month cost-of-living bonus B.C. now pays to pensioners? Can that bonus be given to every new pensioner, irrespective of private income? Hardly!

People on old-age pensions now, who get the cost-of-living bonus, will not have it taken away from them. That would be political suicide for the government. But it would be financial ruin to give \$10 a month to every person in B.C. over 70 years.

So, much as it hates a means test, it seems the government will have one for all who want the \$10-a-month living bonus. There will be a lot of complaints about it but it's the only fair way.

Then there's the matter of the 65-70 group, which will get a pension under the means test. Should this group get the \$10-a-month living bonus? The cabinet is divided on this question. But it seems to this observer that, if people over 70 who qualify get it, so should people between 65 and 70.

It's one of the toughest questions any government in B.C. has been up against in a long while. Not only are millions of dollars involved, but the whole vast concept of social service

B.C.'s average salaries are rising every month. So is the cost of living, and thus we go round

must have been tremendous. Also the price of hay and oats was something, even then. But if you figure that half the final price of milk, butter and eggs and fruit is in the selling or distribution costs, you get the answer.

A family that has its own milk, butter, eggs can surely raise three children for what one would cost in the city.

Or am I wrong, again?

TO ME the most ominous part of the present drift in Canada is that it repeats the pattern of what happened in Germany and some other countries after the First World War. That is, inflation begins to wipe out a whole class.

The Big Shot business man can survive, and indeed thrive. The members of the biggest, toughest trade unions are also in a position to look after themselves.

But the whole unorganized, and hence unprotected lower middle class is caught. Unless the whole process is stopped very quickly, the results will be not only unjust, but permanent.

One consequence of the deliberate inflation in Germany was the creation of the dispossessed class, on the anguished and angry backs of whom Hitler climbed to power. We won't get a Hitler here—but we will surely get other consequences.

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CCC PUBLICIST — Gordon Root, well known British Columbia newspaperman, who has been appointed Director of Public Relations for Columbia Cellulose Co. Ltd., is arriving in Prince Rupert today. Mr. Root has been actively associated with the newspaper business in B.C. for the past 20 years and since 1946 has represented the Vancouver Daily Province in the Legislative Press Gallery at Victoria. He is no stranger to Prince Rupert, having visited here several times in the past.



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Reflects and Reminiscences

It is midwinter now in south-east Australia. Winds freeze and there are snow drifts. Later on, Canada can say the same, although just now finds it impossible to call attention to palm lined streets or bananas and oranges ripe enough to pick.

ANYWAY, SAME OLD STUFF?

Someone has been describing the fighting in Korea as World War No. 2½. This leaves the situation beautifully uncertain but it suggests Communism is thinking twice when pondering aggression.

Thomas E. Dewey, governor of New York State, wearing army khaki, combat boots and a green field cap, has been touring the front lines in Korea. The last time he campaigned he did not leave home and was given the devil's own boating by a fellow named Harry Truman.

OF COURSE

It's a longish time since anyone mentioned the Loch Ness monster. This was in Scotland years ago. And here comes Town Clerk Harper of Lincoln (Eng.) to solemnly proclaim he saw it while on a fishing trip with his son. He reckoned the distance from his small boat was at least a mile, and besides it was raining. He was without field glasses. So sure was Mr. Smith he was also

without a doubt. But a mile in a rain is a long way.

Most of us have heard of the surging river floods in Missouri and Kansas. When the Manitoba witness scared Western Canada not long ago, there were calls for help and the general situation was mean enough—but not like what's going on today away down in the Mississippi Valley. This time, when it comes to losses and all that, it's in the billion dollar class.

Last year, 4,320 bald eagles were shot in Alaska. Shades of Washington and Lincoln, isn't there room in a country like that for the national bird? Or must two dollars be reckoned too precious to be at large? Years ago, it was nothing at all uncommon to watch an eagle drifting slowly over the townsites. Just a neighborly call, and he seemed to know it.

NUMBER ONE

The anniversary of the Reuter Correspondence Bureau founded in London a century ago is being observed. This has always been said of Reuters. They displayed ingenuity and the knack of being first. Perhaps there was often precious little time to spare but the competition was always more than met. The staff, at first a mere handful, is today a small army.



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