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The Power Question

THE electors would do well to vote with extremely careful consideration on the referendum coming up at the approaching civic election on the question of whether the British Columbia Power Commission should be invited to Prince Rupert to supply our electrical energy.

Extraneous issues could easily be allowed to influence business-like judgment. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the facts, such as they are, and incomplete as they may be to date, should be looked at dispassionately.

The Daily News has endeavored to bring the matter before the public as fully and impartially as possible but we realize that a great deal we have presented has been a matter of opinion.

We know the service we have had from the Northern British Columbia Power Co. Its shortcomings have been pointed out and it has made its explanations. We know how much its service is costing us and some figures have been presented on charges elsewhere. The case of the power company should be carefully considered and the alternatives fully studied.

The power company has admitted the need for additional power development here and its intention to provide it. It has hinted that the result of the referendum might affect its planning policy for the future.

The choice between public and private ownership might actuate some people in their decisions. We do not think it is the intention of the city council to make that the major issue.

The question might have something of the old adage of the bird in the hand or the bird in the bush to it.

There are definitely two sides to the matter. Good or bad, the referendum is being put. We suggest that the voters be not carried off their feet but endeavor to judge soundly between what we have now and what we have the possibility of getting as well as the full impact and reactions which may accrue from this preliminary expression of opinion.

It's Up to the Public

THE city council is evidently resolved to do its best to cope with the serious rat scourge in Prince Rupert.

The city can do a lot, of course, but the most it can do will not be very effective if there is not the fullest co-operation on the part of the public—which means every man, woman and child in Prince Rupert.

If people go on leaving their garbage cans uncovered, are careless in the disposal of waste and unused food, allow litter and refuse to gather around their premises, the city, do what it may, will be unable to cope with the situation.

The crux of the matter would appear to be with the public. If they are careful and adopt the suggestions that are made, live up to the letter of commonsense cleanliness and tidiness, there will be a good chance of being rid of our vermin.

Like the rest of us, the rats have to have a place to live and something to live on. If all of us deny them food and shelter, and take whatever measures we can to exterminate the rodents we now have with us, their numbers will soon be diminished and the menace of their unwelcome presence removed.

As I See It



by
*Elmore
Philpott*

Senator Agnes?

IT IS a long time now since I had personal connection with Ontario politics. I can't say I had any real interest in the outcome, beyond mild curiosity as to number of seats by which the Conservatives would win.

But I confess I felt a pang of sorrow when I read that in the tidal wave of defeat for the CCF and Liberals, Agnes MacPhail was washed down too. Maybe now Prime Minister St. Laurent will pick up where one of his predecessors left off a few years ago and appoint Agnes MacPhail to the Senate.

I believe that such an appointment would be just about the most popular and most widely approved of all the appointments that there have ever been made to that place which critics call the Old Man's Home and others describe as Chamber of Elder Statesmen.

HOWEVER you look at it, Agnes deserves one of the numerous vacancies that there now are in the Senate. She was not only the first woman ever to be elected to parliament in Canada. But she was one of the most useful and interesting members.

Also she was one of the few MP's ever to sit in Ottawa who did anything to reduce that deadly dullness, that appalling mediocrity, that hum-drumness which hangs like an invisible fog over most goings on in parliament.

Agnes had—and still has—whatever it is that livens things up. Barbed remarks and witty epigrams fell as naturally from her lips as ripe apples from a tree. I remember one of best about the late, great Mackenzie King:

"He said nothing, and took four hours to say it."

Yet I also remember away back in the twenties, when the King government had appointed Miss MacPhail to represent Canada at the League of Nations session at Geneva and how the great constitutional crisis developed at Ottawa. Agnes got off the boat, rushed back to Ottawa, and helped the Liberals eject the short-lived Meighen government. Her conscience made her do it, she explained—though she felt like a fool for passing up the trip.

STRANGE thing, that conscience of Miss MacPhail's. When she was elected MP in 1921 she thought that \$2500 per year was enough for anybody to live on—even for an MP in Ottawa. So all the years, till 1930, she turned back into the treasury the \$1500 per year.

Somebody who is good at figures can figure out how much that money, at compound interest, is worth now. Anyway, Agnes would not touch it. In 1930 she told her constituents, in advance, that if they re-elected her she was going to take the full \$4000.

IN 1940 Agnes was beaten in her old riding of South Grey—but by the part that had been tacked on in a gerrymander. For two terms she later represented a Toronto suburb in the Ontario house.

Old, and after two really grave heart attacks, she is anything but well off in everything but friends.

The heart specialist told Miss MacPhail all the things she must NOT do if she wished to live to old age.

"But who WANTS to live that long," asked Agnes, "if you can't go on really living?"

SOME DAY somebody will write

Senate Ayes Pension Plan—Duff Dissents

CITAWA.—The Senate Monday approved the principle of Canada's new plan of \$40-a-month pensions for all at 70 but with one dissenting voice.

The dissenter was 79-year-old Senator William Duff (Liberal-Nova Scotia), hearty former Nova Scotia fish merchant and shipowner, who himself will be eligible for the universal pension when it goes into effect in January.

He said that Senator Wishart Robertson, government leader who explained the bill, did not say where the money would be raised.

Senator Robertson said this question had already been dealt with but he would be glad to explain further later.

Senator Duff nodded but, when the motion for the second reading, was put to the Upper Chamber, he shouted: "On division!" the way of showing opposition without forcing a recorded vote.

Court Upholds Decertifying

VANCOUVER.—A Labor Relations Board ruling decertifying Marine Workers and Boilermakers Union, Local 1, as bargaining agent for ten Vancouver wooden boatyards was upheld Monday.

Chief Justice Wendell B. Farris, in Supreme Court, dismissed the union's request to kill the ruling.

The union was decertified August 2 following refusal to work overtime after shipyard operators turned down a request for an interim boost in wages.

Chief Justice Farris said the trouble was originally brought about by the union's deliberate violation of its agreement. It did not take immediate steps to set aside the decertification but clearly acquiesced in it and seemed to welcome it, he said.

Funeral of Fisherman

Funeral was held Monday for John Graham, 69, pioneer fisherman, who lived alone at Victory Cove. He died last Thursday. Rev. Fred Antrobus held the service in Grenville Funeral Chapel.

Mr. Graham was single and had no relatives here but counted among his friends many fishermen along the coast. He had been here 30 years.

Burial was at Fairview cemetery with B.C. Undertakers in charge.

Unemployed Are Choosy

There are unemployed in Prince Rupert, but few appear so hard up that they ask for help.

One young fellow, after saying he had not been eating regularly, declined to follow the suggestion that he would find something to do at the grain elevator. This did not interest him.

a real book about the tragic days of the great depression. They may write of how Agnes once not only spoke to 40,000 persons on the outskirts of Toronto—but FOR those distressed people to the rest of Canada.

Meanwhile I hope they send her to the Senate. The Senate needs her and she needs the money.

'Wings over the Interior'

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ray.. Reflects and Reminisces

No elevator would have stood at Prince Rupert had its builders believed its use would have been so greatly restricted. In their mind's eye, they saw the spacious, sheltered, ice-free harbor of the north being put to another important commercial purpose. This was the flow of wheat as Canada's grain growing scope expanded, notably northward and embracing the lush land of Peace River.

What excuse has there been for the bald fact that for twenty years, this elevator, with but few exceptions, has been scarcely utilized? It may be unjust to suggest that a million dollars had been wasted. Yet there is no unfairness to claim this port has suffered from non-recognition.

LOADING TODAY

Prince Rupert has repeatedly protested. Some charges were strongly worded. In response came acknowledgments or what might be called explanations and promises, or plain excuses that got nowhere and did nothing except arouse fresh irritation. A Jap vessel is today loading full cargo for delivery across the Pacific. More will follow. This will be a busy winter. Why?

What could be described as an emergency developed on the prairies last summer. It became worse as millions of bushels ripened. The problem was where to put the wheat. Dozens of steamers waited at Vancouver. Freighters on the Great Lakes moved eastward for reloading on ocean-going vessels. From Churchill, frosty portal to Hudson's Bay, sailed the grain ships. Never had there been such a call for more space, more bottoms in which to pour precious food.

WHAT? PRINCE RUPERT!

As if someone with a happy thought had mentioned a town called Prince Rupert, the national question suddenly looked this way. Oh yes! Prince Rupert! Isn't there an elevator — an empty one—way up there?

And so, here we are at last, but only because every single solitary grain of wheat had to come—not because as one of Canada's finest plants, it should have been doing business every winter, helping, like in all the other major seaports to put a priceless product on the world's markets. It might be suggested we should feel grateful now but it's hard to know why.

Your best paint buy...
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FOR BEAUTIFUL WALLS & CEILINGS

WHO SHALL SUPPLY POWER?

(Continued from page 1)

mier himself—not once, but on numerous occasions during the past three years—the situation remains the same:

"Nothing has been done to rectify this unjust and unreasonable state of affairs.

"The B. C. Electric have offered to purchase the entire plant of the Commission at Hope at its book value, without quibbling, and to distribute electrical energy to Hope at Fraser Valley rates: five cents per kw and to supply all power required for industry regardless of growth.

"The Commission has refused power for head saws for two saw mills now operating here. Industrialists looking for suitable locations in which to establish businesses refuse to locate in Hope when they can secure the same power in any other Fraser Valley town at half the rate. Commission rates are 10 cents per kw for householders, 12 cents for commercial users and five cents for industrial users.

WESTON REFUSED

"Then why does Mr. Weston refuse to either supply sufficient power, give Hope a competitive rate or surrender this isolated operation of his system to the B.C. Electric?"

"The people of Hope are appealing to all the people of Brit-

ish Columbia for a square deal according to the teachings of democracy. They are asking the citizens of British Columbia to support them in their request to be freed from the dictatorship of the temperamental chairman of the B. C. Power Commission who has failed to live up to every promise he made to the representatives of this community."

That is how the people of Hope felt a year ago. Shortly after

this letter was published supporting editorial by the paper in which the letter appeared, the Commission the B. C. Electric.

In this question which appears before the people of Prince Rupert, voters will have to discern, with a thoroughness of today, but also tomorrow. The answer is to have a heavy hand in the chips for this city.

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NOTICE OF MEETING
THE SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY
will be held in the
CIVIC CENTRE
Prince Rupert, B.C.
FRIDAY, November 30th, 1951, at 10:00 a.m.
Pacific Coast Fishermen's Mutual Marine Insurance Co.
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