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Power Referendum

THE referendum on the power question which the city council, by scant majority, has deemed fit to place before the people at the civic election next week presents a matter for most serious consideration. If the city council was doing it over again, they might have moved more slowly and discreetly in presenting such a reference to the electors. But now it is before us, it must be dealt with.

Certainly, there seems, as we search around for some justification, little to recommend the referendum, particularly in its present form. Apart from being untimely, it could also be dangerous as far as the interests of the city in this important utility are concerned.

While the Northern British Columbia Power Co. has chosen to accept the referendum as a vital issue in connection with its future policy, one need have no brief for the power company in deciding that it should be negated at the polls.

The power company, undoubtedly, has its critics and there may be more or less just grievances against the company. Yet to blindly vote it out of business and stake our future power chances on an open and unqualified bid to the British Columbia Power Commission might well be a premature and ill-considered proposition.

Even if we are not altogether satisfied with what we have got, there is no need to recklessly tie ourselves up to a quick decision at this time, the consequences of which we have little, if any, capability of estimating.

Maybe the power company has not delivered the goods as effectively and as promptly on occasion as we would have liked, but we can think of such things as water, telephones, streets, sidewalks and other services whose record may not have been as good even as that of the power company.

We have another week, fortunately, to cogitate on the matter and that will give us the opportunity to look before we leap. We are suggesting that it would be well to forget for the moment whether or not we like the power company, its works and its record, the merits of which can more effectively be judged when there is a clearer issue on the matter. We should remember that the referendum, if voted in the affirmative, would not only be in the nature of a dismissal to the power company but a definite commitment to the Power Commission, about whose ability to serve us and the terms of whose service we have not the faintest idea at this time.

This, we suggest, is too serious a business to be carried off our feet without the fullest and most careful consideration.

Even if the company is unworthy, it is much to be doubted if this is the time to tell the power company it is through and, further than that, shut the door to bargaining with any organization but one.

Of course, it is a rare question to which there are not two sides but, frankly, we have yet to hear any very cogent or solid reasons to even justify the presentation of this referendum, let alone to vote a "yes" answer thereto.

Scripture Passage for Today

"The Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings."
—Isa. 61:1.

FISHING SCIENCE

Thousands of British Columbia salmon have been tagged and released in the study of spawning habits and migrations.

RAILWAY HUB

The railway Veterans' Institute at Crewe, England, famous terminal, has 1,400 members mostly 70 and 80 years old.



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As I See It



by
Elmore
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B.C. Team—Bears?

REVELSTOKE: Whenever I think of Kipling's phrase *Our Lady of the Snows* I think of Revelstoke.

But this time our lady fooled me. For there was just a thin, lacey curtain of snow on the December ground when I got off the CPR train from Vancouver on the first lap of a B.C. speaking tour for Canadian Clubs.

This trip is a reminder of just what a wide range of climate we do have in this western empire we have called British Columbia.

A friend I met in Glasgow on my recent trip to Britain wanted to bet me that they had a greater annual rainfall than we did. Offhand I had forgotten the statistics of just what we do have.

But when I got back home I collected enough data to dry up even the most all-wet Scot. I forget now just how much Glasgow does have each year. But just to show my brash friend that we in B.C. could go them one better, either going or coming—I sent him along the figures showing the annual precipitation ranging from around ten inches in the dry belt to nearly one hundred inches up coast.

REVELSTOKE is bear-country, too, and gives me the excuse to invade the sports writers' preserves, for once. After all, I have noticed many of the sports writers recently writing on the international situation (and making a first class job of it too).

So here is my two-bits worth as to the name of the Canadian football team that B.C. is organizing to show all Canucks who live east of the Rockies just where is the part of Canada where men are men.

One suggestion is B.C. Totems, another is B.C. Tilliums. My suggestion is

B.C. Bears, or B.C. Grizzlies. After all, this is the only part of America where we really do have bears that are not as tame as tabby cats. And as the idea in North American football seems to be to maul the enemy—why not exalt the master mauler of them all?

I HEARD a good bear story last time I was over in the Rockies. It was about a professional bear hunter who was hired by two rich Americans to help them shoot some bears. The bear-hunter in turn wired for an Indian expert—who finally turned up for the job with wife and seven kids. Wonderful fun was had by all—especially by the bears.

ANOTHER distinctive name for our B.C. football team might be "Salmon Bellies." But there are two possible objections to that. The lacrosse boys already have a claim to that. Also, maybe more ladies have the same objection as a lady visitor from Kentucky. She had been taught that no lady ever said *belly*, so she asked her youngsters to call the lacrosse team "Salmon Stomachs."

THE PEOPLE in these smaller cities in the west seem to me to have more "homey" fun than do the folks in the big cities. They make more of their fun, don't have to buy it. But I just don't see how they get time to do all the things there are to go to. Revelstoke's population is about 2800 according to the census. Yet there are 85 (yes, eighty-five) different social and

Instalment Fine Paying

MONTREAL.—Thousands of Canadians are being sent to prison for the modern version of imprisonment for debt. That is the opinion of Alex Edminson, vice-principal of Queen's University and president of the National Prisoners' Aid Association of the United States.

In a recent address here he said: "This is supposed to be a democratic country, but daily in courts throughout Canada people are going to jail because they haven't enough money to pay fines. It is about time the law was changed so that people will be permitted to pay fines on the instalment plan."

Mr. Edminson said Canadians must give a better break to the 30,000 men, women and children who are released from Canadian penal institutions each year, given \$10 and sent on their way.

He said the reformative approach, rather than the merely punitive, must be used in all institutions so that those released don't go back again.

Mr. Edminson said another point needing immediate attention was the present-day system of "no money, no lawyer." He was glad that Ontario this year adopted a legal aid scheme.

Old Sweat Gone With New Army

WITH THE CANADIANS IN GERMANY—The Old Sweat is gone.

You can tell by the ribbons. It is doubtful that one of the 5,500 men coming to Germany will be wearing those few ribbons of 1914-18 that can mean so much. Time has caught up with the Old Sweat. Only the old songs linger on. It is strangely and perhaps significantly true that no new songs emerged in the last war to match or supplant the songs of the first.

LETTERBOX

DISAPPOINTED

Editor, Daily News:
May I, through your columns, voice my disappointment in the fact that there were not enough candidates running for alderman on the full term basis to necessitate a vote. Election by acclamation is fine if the candidates are the best we have in Prince Rupert, but were they?

I also cannot see the sense of having four mayoralty candidates running in a city this size. Probably the winning candidate will have been elected by a minority and likely wouldn't have been elected at all with, say, only one other person running against him. In the meantime, the ones who lose may have made excellent aldermen, but they are lost to us now.

Do you not think that a proficient "selection" process might not do some good? I do not profess to know how this "selection" would be done but we might learn something from larger centres in this regard.

That four aldermen should have been 'acclaimed' to office, while four run for Mayor, seems incongruous to me.

Aside from the fact that we did not nominate more aldermanic candidates, the general public had no say whatever with regards the newly acclaimed aldermen.

I think, in the above regard, that this election has been most unfortunate and while not meaning to cast reflections, good or bad, on any of the candidates in this election, I do feel that we should be more careful in the future.

V. DYKE McMILLAN.

fraternal and political organizations.

Of course, most of the people who are in one are in many. Raises the question first asked by General Dan Spry of the Boy Scouts: that is, have we too many organizations in Canada, and what about some mergers in this field.

ray..

Reflects and Reminisces

A wealthy Massachusetts man, aged 93, has had his recent marriage annulled by a judge who ruled that the groom did not know what he was doing. Thousands of men half the age do the same thing and remain that way.

RECOUNT, MAYBE

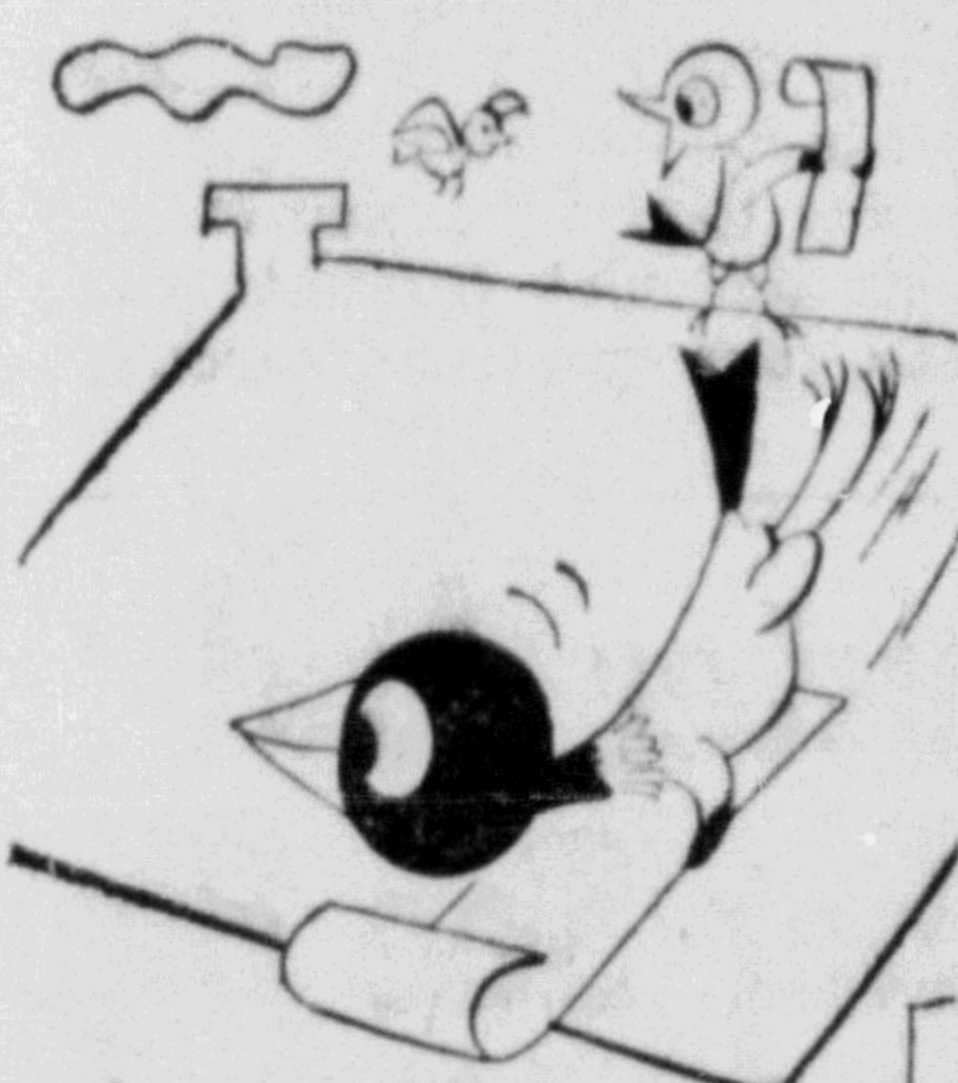
A preliminary report from Ottawa discloses the unwelcome fact that Canada's population is not, after all, fourteen million. The real, or official, total is 100,000 short of that. Makes a fellow feel he's been notified of a salary cut. Fourteen million has such a fine mouth-filling sound.

It takes a war in Korea to grow a he-man moustache. If you doubt it, see the way B.C. wives greet their veterans. Even the babies have a doubtful look.

If snow must come, perhaps it's just as well to have it now. In more than one sense, nothing is more seasonable. Without snow that had depth as well as the sting of sharp air, something is sadly lacking. December 25 south of the equator is something else again—good and hot, or the same as a beaming midsummer day in Prince Rupert. But this does not mean there is no Yuletide. Indeed no!

NO OARS NEEDED

Many a city in British Columbia might well envy the town-



Toboggan slides for pigeons

When we put an aluminum roof on our Kingston, Ont. plant, we knew it would have many advantages for the people inside; but, frankly, we did not consider the pigeon population outside. They landed on the shining surface... slid... liked the sensation... made it a pastime.

Providing toboggan slides for pigeons is no part of our programme. However, the aluminum roofs which now dot the countryside do illustrate the rapidly growing demand for aluminum. To match growing markets like this, we are building new plants and powerhouses in Quebec and British Columbia. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

site of Prince Rupert. There may be a defect here or there, but nothing of consequence. Take, for example, the Fraser Valley, devastated by floods a few years ago, and before that. Today, there are floods again, no fewer than 25 farms being under water. But there's nothing like that in this man's town or district. One will wait a long time to see somebody rowing a good-sized boat along Second or Third Avenues.

O CANADA!

Canadians are proud of Canada. Her resources are envied, and to her shores come more and more strangers who feel that here they will find security and happiness. But Explorer John Davis, writing away back in 1587, had no such ideas after a look at Canada. Said he: "No view of wood, grass or earthen to be seen, and the shore two leagues full of ice. The irksome noise of the ice was such as to breed strange conceits among us."

Canadian moviegoers behold history drama—usually dripping with gore—from nearly everywhere on earth except Canada. Yet the story of Canada's three centuries of adventure and achievement is brimming with splendid screen material. And no one need die a violent death, or see a drop of blood.

STANDARD FARMING

The classical system of crop rotation in Britain consists of four sowings—clover, wheat, turnips or such, and barley or oats.

Ancient Windows Village Problem

MERTON, Norfolk, England.—Stained glass found in an old oak chest in the loft of a farm building on Lord Walsingham's estate is setting a problem for the district.

The glass, composing three canopies—the shaped upper portions of ecclesiastical windows—and five other pieces, was found

by workmen who came to demolish the building. The stained glass was found in a chest, the glass proves it to be of medieval origin.
No 1 mystery—No one figure out where it belonged from the parish church of Lord Walsingham's grandfather. But the measurements are so far no church in the district has been found with windows of the right size.

NOTICE

Voters in the December 13th Civic Elections may obtain free transportation to the polls from any point in the city by calling the following numbers:

366 OR 209

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