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Public Should Be Told

LATE last week a delegation from Ootsa Lake, here to see the government, made public the settlers' protests against offers of compensation received from Alcan interests for homes and holdings which will be flooded in the company's B.C. hydro development. Members of the delegation said they consider the offers too low. They feel that they are being unfairly treated in the present negotiations, and they are not convinced that an arbitration hearing would bring them justice.

The public of British Columbia is in no position to judge the merits of their case. The public knows little if anything about it. The public has been given as little information on that question as it has on several other matters concerning the change in the country's topography which will result from damming rivers, flooding a large area of the interior, and diverting the water through a mountain tunnel to a new outlet.

British Columbians appreciate the value of a half-billion-dollar aluminum industry, the payrolls it will bring this province; the new wealth and the new development.

They would still like to know what the project is going to do to Tweedsmuir Park. They would like to know if the flooding is going to leave that territory's beautiful lakeland a cemetery of marginal dead trees. They would like to know what has been done to salvage the timber that will be inundated if it is not harvested. And they would like to know whether or not the settlers of Ootsa—Canadian citizens who pioneered a rugged country—are being pushed around.

Preliminary inquiries made by this newspaper last year indicated that the great Alcan project could be undertaken without substantial loss to British Columbia either in fisheries, park beauty or water use. The clear implication was that the province could acquire a huge new industry at a minimum cost in injury to other industries or other resources. Nothing has been said officially to contradict that impression. Nothing, in fact, has been said recently.

The complaints of Ootsa settlers serve as a reminder of other questions that have been asked and have not been answered. The people of British Columbia would appreciate word from their elected representatives on these different points. Surely they are entitled to that information.—Victoria Times.

Scripture Passage for Today

"There went virtue out of him, and healed them all."
—St. Luke 6:19

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Reflects and Reminisces

FOUR OLD GUY

Monday saw another anniversary of Guy Fawkes Day. Guy, as you know, managed to wangle 35 barrels of gun powder where-with to blow up the British Parliament. This was ever so long ago. Fawkes, of course, failed. Just what his main kick was we haven't the faintest notion but doubt if it could have been the high cost of living, inflation, housing shortage or even what to do concerning margarine.

Churchill announces he is cutting the size of his cabinet down to sixteen. Ottawa, however, requires twenty. As for British Columbia, nothing less than eleven is considered essential. Then, counting Yukon, Canada has nine more sets of governments. Nor does all this include the number of small fry office holders, the payment of whom must also come out the taxpayers.

A LITTLE MORE WESTERLY

Scouting for oil began in Alberta thirty-three years ago. At

LETTERBOX

RATS—AND CATS

Editor,
Daily News,
How appalling it is to read of the tremendous destruction wreaked by the almost unchecked rat population here in Prince Rupert. Not only do they damage marketable goods but, most important, they constitute a real health hazard. The amount of foodstuffs actually eaten by the rodents is almost negligible in proportion to what they foul.

This certainly calls for the utmost in planned action. It is most commendable that the health authorities, as well as civic authorities, have set up a special committee to delve into methods most effective to rid us of this bane.

The three points already established are all excellent in controlling rats, but are self-limiting, as they do not begin to attack the rat in either home or warehouse. Poison is not too effective around the home, as only too often our dwellings are made most unpleasant by the self-burial of stricken rats in inaccessible places.

It does strike me that we have too long overlooked one of nature's most effective controls by not encouraging cats! Now our feline fellows may not be everyone's idea of a companion but, rest assured, he is one of the best rat traps.

It has been proven that the domestic cat hunts best not when forced to do so to exist, but from the compulsive instinct to destroy his natural prey in the balance of nature.

The average householder could very easily discourage rats by simply keeping a cat. I do not imply by this that he must be made into a pet. In our mild climate, all the animal needs is some form of shelter and to be fed fairly adequately.

For a warehouse operator, it entails a degree more planning. Each floor would require its individual hunter who should be provided with food and fresh water constantly. The cat tribe is usually very fastidious, so some provision must be made for sanitary purposes. Usually a box of sand suffices.

No doubt this will prove to be a controversial suggestion,



ADVERTISING OFFICIAL—A. L. Cawthorne-Page, MBE, manager of publications for the Canadian head office, Ottawa. Of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company is vice-president of the Life Insurance Advertisers' Association. In recognition of his services as publicity director of Canada's War Savings Committee and later as director of information for the War-time Prices and Trade Board, he was made a member of the Order of the British Empire. (CP PHOTO)

first, wild-cattening was common enough. Many a somewhat discouraging year passed before the great splash at Leduc heralded to the trade that Western Canada had arrived. British Columbia cannot show so much history. Here, Fort St. John has a well of top quality grade and all in a few years.

Food imports, particularly meats, are being substantially cut in Britain. Austerity is back. No more than fifty pounds can be taken out of the country at one time by a tourist. Double had been allowed. Bankruptcy, which has an ugly sound, must decline and disappear. The new chancellor refuses to ease anxiety. He says things will likely be worse before they become better. Spending abroad will be slashed. If anyone needs eye glasses, he will pay the shot, and not the government.

IT'S FABULOUS

One of the most fabulous engineering jobs under way in North America today is the Aluminum Company of Canada's power project in British Columbia, says the Canadian Geographical Journal. It's completion will increase Canada's prestige and power among the world family of nations and provide benefits and opportunities which flow from constructive and successful enterprise.

but it assuredly is the most economical and almost the most logical.

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NAVAL RE-UNION

LONDON — Canada's high commissioner in London, L. D. Wilgress, will be among guests at the annual re-union of the Western Approaches Command on Nov. 23 honoring the part played by the Canadian Navy with British forces in the Battle of the Atlantic.

As I See It

by
Elmore
Philpott

Those Opinion Polls

PORT ARTHUR.—In the restaurant of the House of Commons the other day some MP's came over and congratulated me for calling the shot so closely in the British election.

Well, we can't always be wrong and this time I happened to hit pretty near the bullseye.

I confess I went out on a limb deliberately because I thought this was a good chance to help debunk those public opinion polls. They are useful but not infallible.

NONE of the opinion polls which I saw recorded in Britain came within a mile of the actual result—for all of them showed the Conservatives leading Labor by a margin of several per cent.

The actual result, as we all now know, was that Labor led the Conservatives in the total votes, even though the Tories did win the most seats.

Some professors were even further off the beam than the routine polls. They had worked out a fantastic formula which, they claimed, would give in advance the exact number of seats by which the winning party would win in a two-way fight.

They said:
Find the ratio between party A and party B and then raise that ratio to the third power. That is, "Cube it." The answer you get will be the number of seats by which the leading party will win. They cited several examples to prove it—applying the formula to past elections.

FOR THE benefit of old timers like me who either never could do this "cube it" stuff or else have forgotten how to get your high school sons to do it.

Better still, get your high school daughters to do it—for my observation is they are more likely to have the right answers than the sons.

But don't do it expecting to get some magic key to the right answers. For the English professors with their "cube it" formula were even further off the

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beam than Gallup and Co. The official figures show these totals:
Labor 13,911,582
Conservative 13,721,345
Under the professors' cube-the-ratio formula you would do this:
48.72 X 48.72 X 48.72
48.05 X 48.05 X 48.05
The answer to the above is the number of seats by which Labor should have beaten the Tories, by the professors' formula. Actually, the Tories beat Labor, in seats.

I BELIEVE that opinion polls can and do serve a very useful purpose. But I also believe it is all to the good that people have learned, once again, that you just can't know the answers in advance, even if you hire thousands of people to go around asking.

In Britain the opinion pollsters listed Conservative, Labor, Liberal and then about 10 per cent "don't know."

Next time they would be wiser to list the last-named as "won't tell."

Obviously in Britain many people just would not tell the professional poll takers. So the results were as far off the beam as they were when Truman beat Dewey—and almost as wrong as they were recently in Australia where the polls predicted a large majority in the referendum to outlaw the Communist party. There the vote went heavily the other way.

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WELLINGTON, N.Z. — Visitors to New Zealand in future will be marked men and women. The government tourist department has issued a sticker with a picture of a Kiwi—the national bird—to be put on baggage. The label also bears the words "visitor to New Zealand."

OFFICE LEO STROH
JOHANNESBURG — Dutch Reformed Church reported the Folkestone tour South Africa. Leo Stroh said the set of the tour is already to be purchased. He is already to be purchased. He is already to be purchased. He is already to be purchased.

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