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Better Train Service

EXCEPT for the abnormal days of World War II and its military traffic, the local line of the Canadian National Railways between Prince Rupert and Jasper has never had busier times than today. Not so long ago two or three freight trains a week may have meandered along the line, today there are often that number in a day, even along the Skeena River, and they are loaded too. A new era is, indeed, developing for the railway and it is a gratifying thing to see.

Passenger traffic is also increasing noticeably and we are hearing reports of a scarcity of sleeper accommodation on the three trains a week which are now being operated. The time seems to have come when we can legitimately expect the railway company to boost its service, possibly to six or seven trains a week. The new industrial development of the country would appear to make it warranted and necessary. Even railway men are admitting it, so something should be done about it soon.

And An Elevator Idle

WITH the harvest of the 1951 crop not so far away now, there is serious congestion of grain on the prairies due to a bottleneck at the Lakehead. Lake ships, finding it more profitable to carry iron ore and such commodities, are not available to take the grain out to Montreal where ocean freighters are being held up waiting delivery of the grain.

Wheat is jammed in the country elevators and a great deal, indeed, still remains on the farms.

At Prince Rupert there is a million-and-a-quarter-bushel elevator which for years has been empty, not even being used for storage purposes.

With this situation existing at Prince Rupert, there can be little sympathetic understanding of the congestion that prevails on the prairies. It will be inexcusable if the authorities permit the wheat situation to become paralyzed or chaotic when the 1951 crop gets ready to move.

Question Of Spain

THE matter of Spanish participation in alliances of western powers is to the fore. The U.S.A. is arranging with the Spanish government for the use of bases in Spain. The U.K. dislikes this and the French like it less.

This resolves itself into the question of whether one likes and trusts General Franco or not. The whole affair carries heavy emotional overtones.

The moderate view might well be that it will be time to treat Spain as a member of a democratic alliance, or for her to be associated with a member of the alliance, when she can be recognized as democratic from her behaviour.

Scripture Passage for Today

"(Jesus) departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."
—St. Mark 1:35

Victoria Woman, Liberal Leader, Visiting North

First vice-president of the British Columbia Liberal Association and past president of the British Columbia Women's Liberal Association as well as being prominent in Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire, and Local Council of Women affairs, Mrs. J. L. Gates of Victoria was in Prince Rupert yesterday.

She was going north on the Princess Kathleen for the round trip to Alaska.

It is the first trip north for Mrs. Gates who was looking forward to seeing at first hand the new developments at Prince Rupert and the scenery of the north.

"I never thought this was such a fine-looking city," she said as J. D. McRae, MLA, drove her up Third Avenue yesterday.

Mrs. Gates, who owns the Metropolitan Hotel in Victoria, is accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. B. Raymond of Seattle. Both Mr. and Mrs. Raymond are lawyers in the Puget Sound city.



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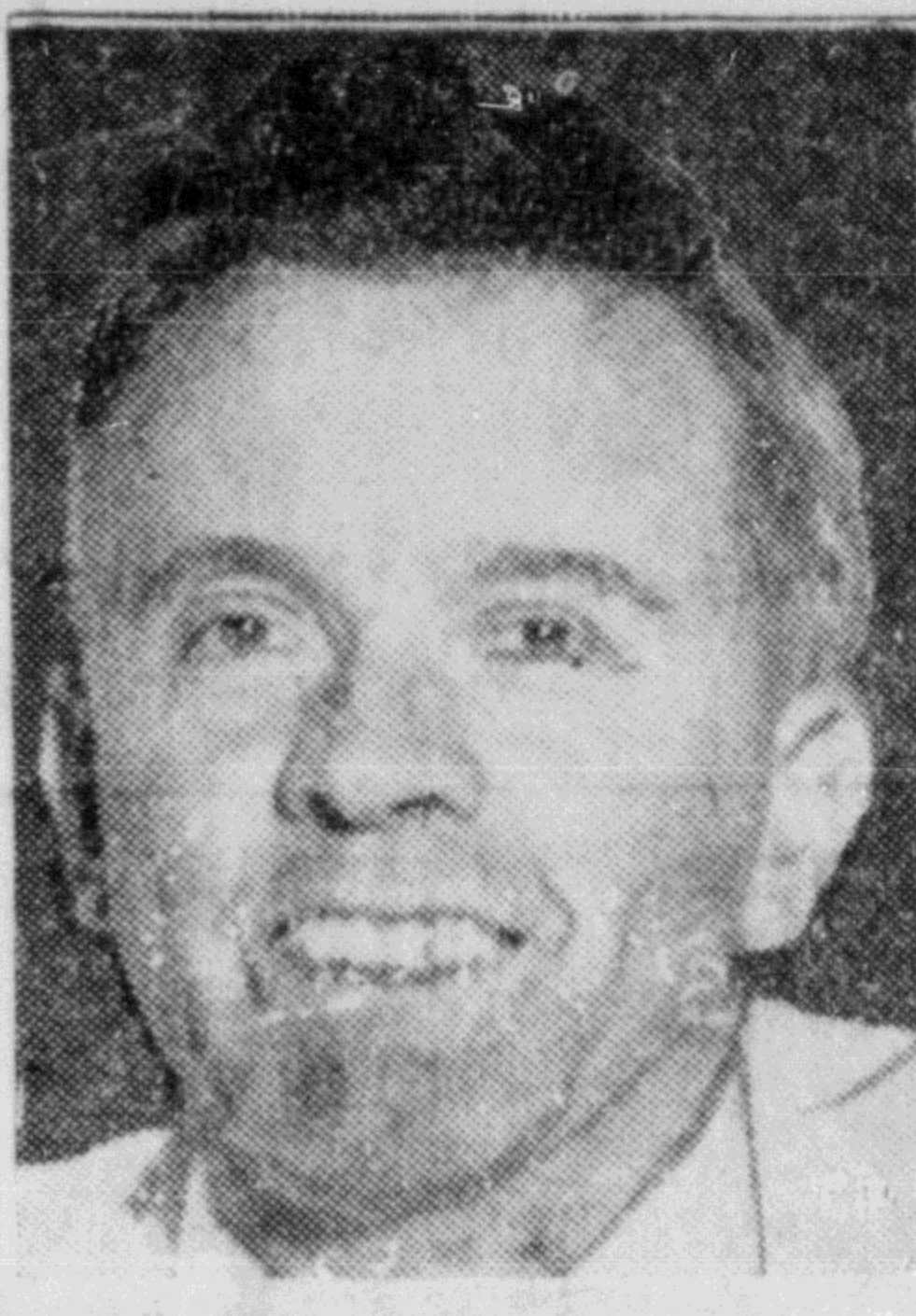
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EDITOR RETIRES—Archie H. Wills has retired as managing editor of the Victoria Daily Times after 45 years with the paper. His service with the Times was interrupted only by two years overseas during the First World War. In four civic elections in the city he headed the aldermanic poll, but quit politics when he became managing editor. (CP PHOTO)

As I See It

by
Elmore
Philpott

Those Hams Again

A LASSIE with a nice Scottish telephone voice wants to know where British residents can buy some of those hams I wrote about as being for sale in Britain.

A lighthouse keeper's wife asks whether or not her relations in Britain have been "taking her for a ride" by letting her pay for the hams she has been sending. Could they have bought hams themselves? (Short answer—No.)

Even my even tempered wife is a bit annoyed with me for not being more detailed about the kind of ham one can buy in Britain—and how you pay.

WHEN WE were in England and Scotland anybody (resident or visitor) could get all kinds of cooked meat, including sliced ham, without ration coupons. There was no limit to the quantity—but prices were about as high as in Canada—a little over a dollar a pound for cooked ham.

But when I wrote that we could have bought hams I should have made it clear that we would have had to do it with Canadian dollars, and by using a special arrangement not available to the people who live in Britain.

HERE AGAIN are the kind of things it seems to me that they really need most in Britain:

Tea, sugar, cooking fats and all the little fixings that good housewives want to make the kind of little tidbits that women everywhere like to bake.

Also, any kind of meat that is really meat. It can be canned meat, or smoked meat, like hams—or anything except the hashy mixed up kind of stuff. Not that there is anything wrong with the mixed up kinds of canned meat meals—except that the British "have had it." They get too much of that sort of thing, as is.

HERE IS the sort of thing the British are up against. My old World War One pal, who lives in the New Forest, is a great gardener. He grows gooseberries. Like most other English, his family loves gooseberry jam. But the wife can't make the gooseberry jam because they can't get the extra sugar.

IT IS THE little things like that which really get the British people down. Take a case like this:

Suppose our family lived in Britain. Suppose I wanted my wife to make my favorite cookies—oatmeal with dates in between. She couldn't do it in Britain because there just would not be enough sugar or fat to provide the makings.

You could best describe British food conditions today as dull and grim. They actually do get enough to get by on. From the point of view of the nutrition scientists, the British are getting enough calories. But they are not getting the kind of meals that make them glad to stay alive.

WE WILL certainly send more hams to our friends in Britain. Although we know now that we could arrange to send the money and have excellent Danish hams delivered right there, I will send them right from here because

VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

Pibroch Stirs Capital—B.C.'s 80th Birthday—Anscomb Wields Big Stick

VICTORIA.—The capital has been stirred to the depths in recent days by the bagpipes. It all started when some enterprising sightseeing companies had pretty girls, fully kilted in tartans and blowing bagpipes, parading up and down near the Post Office, in an effort to get American tourists to take bus rides.

The tourists were delighted, took hundreds of pictures to send to the folks back home, to prove they had been in a strange foreign land.

All went well until workers in nearby office buildings started protesting. They said the bagpipes were not making music but hideous noises, so loud and terrible they could not work, so ear-splitting all the office windows had to be closed, even though the heat was stifling.

The office workers grew so desperate they went to the Chief of Police. The embarrassed Chief asked the girls not to blow the pipes. Now they parade, carrying their pipes, and not a sound comes from them. The tourists are mystified. The Scots are indignant—and threaten vengeance.

This is the month of B.C.'s 80th birthday as a Canadian province. In 1871 British Columbia threw off crown colony status and became part of Canada. Sir Joseph Trutch was the first Lieutenant Governor and John Foster McCreight the first Premier. British Columbia then was a wilderness province by the shores of the Pacific, cut off from the rest of the world. Today it is one of the fabulously rich areas of North America, with a tremendous future, so staggering that even the wildest imagination cannot quite grasp it.

Esquimalt Conservatives are going to toe the line for a while longer, but they're not happier about it. There's a greater haat for Coalition in Esquimalt

than in any other riding in the province.

Conservatives there held a meeting recently to see what they'd do about the coming by-election. Tory leader Anscomb, wielding the big stick of political authority, had in advance made sure the Esquimalt Tories wouldn't pitch over the traces. The Tories buckled down under Herb Anscomb and did what he wanted. They agreed, in the interests of Coalition, to support a Liberal. It was a bitter pill to swallow.

Some insulting remarks were heard. The chairman, A. G. B. Lewis, said the Tories would support a Liberal, not through any love of Liberals but through respect for the late Cmr. Beard.

And then Mr. Lewis let himself be carried away and he said: "He was a gentleman; goodness knows why he ever became a Liberal."

H. Foster criticized Mr. Anscomb. He said the leader was "lacking in judgment in the decision" that the Conservatives of Esquimalt must back a Liberal.

Said Mr. Foster: "The Coalition government has failed terribly. The very word stinks in our nostrils."

In view of all this, it's not necessary to state once more that, politically speaking, the Coalition's in a very unhappy position—and condition.

Perhaps, in the interests of all British Columbians and the political future of the province the sooner it comes to an end the better.

Yugoslavia Next On List

London Man Not Slept In Years

LONDON.—Ernest Lanchberry, retired London businessman, has come to the conclusion that man can adjust himself to anything—even such as doing without sleep. He himself can't recall having had a wink of sleep in his 81 years.

Six months ago, Mr. Lanchberry offered £250 to anyone able to produce an iron-clad formula guaranteeing him five or six hours slumber at night.

More than 3,000 suggestions rolled in. He read them all, tried out some and got good and tired, but sleep still eluded him.

Some of the recipes, he said, were just plain silly. One urged him to eat onions just before retiring. Another advised him to stuff his pillow with dried hops, while a third assured him a positive cure for insomnia was to suck two lumps of sugar slowly, concentrating at the same time on something black.

Several women offered themselves in marriage. There were also suggestions of hypnotism and drugs. But Mr. Lanchberry said he had already tried marriage to no avail and refuses to have anything to do with hypnotism or drugs.

He tried reading the duldest novels far into the night, but only got bored. Some of the correspondents insisted the only remedy was to keep the head cool and the feet warm. Others recommended keeping the head warm and the feet cool. Both ideas were tested without producing results. Finally, Mr. Lanchberry put the natives' remedy to a test and got good and drunk. It kept him more awake than ever.

Even if he gets no sleep, he goes to bed regularly every night and stays there until morning.

It is just as simple and we can see what we are buying.

Also we will include some good old-fashioned Canadian "rat trap" cheese. Before the two wars which ruined Britain, the British used to eat great slabs of that. Now they get tiny bits that you could put in your eye.

I wish I could send them some real roasts of beef!

P.S.—To an irate British-born resident of B.C. who sent me that nice picture of men in red hunting coats. He wrote on it, "Thank God the British just breed horses and ride them—not eat them."

Sorry, friend, you are out of date. We saw several horsemeat shops in London with long queues of customers waiting to buy.



BATTALION C.O.—Maj. J. E. L. Castonguay of Montreal, 37, has been appointed to command of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion of the European-bound 27th Brigade. He will be promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. At present with the 1st Canadian Regiment at Peta-wawa, Ont., Maj. Castonguay will succeed Lt.-Col. John Keefer Mahony, V.C., of New Westminster, B.C., who has relinquished command because of ill-health. (CP from National Defence)

ray..

Reflects and Reminisces

Again in Edmonton after an absence of 28 years, R. H. Roberts, veteran school teacher, notes a decided growth. Some of his Edmonton pupils of nearly 30 years ago have become prominent. There was, however, only one thing lacking to make his visit complete and that was to talk to the only student he ever strapped "to see if it did him any good."

THAT ISLAND

The gift of an island to Princess Elizabeth has been proposed, on the occasion of the Royal visit this fall. It would be somewhere along the coast. She already has a few, known as the British Isles.

BLUE MONDAY

HMCS Ontario plays records bright and early in the morning. Sunday, had it been somewhat later, the music could have mingled with the church bells. Yesterday, people on the way to work, particularly as they neared First Avenue, looked toward the harbor, with a pleased expression. What they heard was not exactly a cross between a jig and a waltz, but it helped in warding off the 7:45 a.m. Monday blues.

It was once said of Will Rogers, comments the Welland-Port Colborne Tribune, that when someone asked him the best way to cope with the problem of increasing street traffic, he suggested to take all cars not paid for off the streets. It might mean a few difficulties to start with but the idea has its practical points.

Ottawa considers one national war memorial enough. There will be another outlay of millions but there will be nothing about it to



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Parents Die—Children Live

CHATHAM, Ont. (CP)—A small plane plowed into a field in a driving rainstorm near here Saturday and two of its four occupants were fatally injured. Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Davies of Toronto died in hospital shortly after they were dragged from the wreckage.

The children of the couple—Alec, aged 5, and Janet, 2—suffered severe bruises.

Fishing Vessel Has Bad Luck

The Alaskan fishing vessel 31F847 has been having several streaks of bad luck. Not long ago, while anchored in the Taku River, up the coast, her owner Fred Karo disappeared. Neighboring fishermen, noticing his continued absence and the fact of her engine still running, reported the matter. Karo remains missing.

Subsequently, Thos. W. Freeman chartered the vessel and it was after this that he also was reported missing.

This was followed by a Coast Guard report that the 31F847 had sunk in the Taku River. Efforts were being made to pump her out.

revive sad memories. This time, it will be putting into effect far-reaching plans for civic improvements, aimed at the increased convenience and happiness of those living now and in the future.

SUNSHINY SUNDAYS

A fine Sunday, naturally enough, is a church attendance reminder. It also suggests the giving of more personal attention to that little house and lawn of yours. If you doubt it, take a stroll and note the home owners who have their own ideas of what to do with the Sabbath. Many local dwellings are old—some venerable—and the most of us do not have so much week day leisure. Then, if a fellow must soothe his conscience, there are always the seventh day sermons and music broadcasts.



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