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Whom Shall We Choose?

IN OUR pride in the ways of democracy we boast of our right to choose our own rulers. In practice actually we often leave the choice to a matter of chance. The choice of a mayor will become the responsibility of the citizens of Prince Rupert shortly. How shall we carry out that responsibility? In fact how many of those entitled to vote will cast their votes on that day? Or alternatively how many will leave it to chance?

It seems to be a daily pastime to blame our city council for things not done. We blame them for unpaved streets; sidewalks that are of doubtful security, with an unholy capacity for upending, as one steps on where the other end should be; unsightly, unoccupied blocks with their accumulation of debris and discarded pipes and odds and ends. We blame other people for lack of attention to many daily inconveniences and drawbacks but how about facing the situation and putting the blame where much of it belong—namely on ourselves? We wait until an unfortunate situation crops up and then we look for a scapegoat. Why not be honest about it and recognize that it is our job to foresee where possible and to suggest remedies when it is not possible to foresee. This applies to the election of the mayor.

What kind of a person should he, or she, be? What qualifications are needed? What experience should he have had? Should he have had experience as an alderman? What are the objectives of the candidate for the office of mayor? Is he in it for what he can get out of it? Or for what service he can give to the city? Is he a self-seeker? Does he seek the office or does the office seek him, or her?

We have been fortunate in the main in our holders of the office in the past. Maybe that was just our good fortune. But how about some effective plan in advance? Will it be left to a few to foregather and name a likely candidate? What will be the objectives of the few who will nominate?

The choice will be a challenging one. The responsibilities are great. It is time that we thought seriously about our choice.

Practical Pensions

THE primary purpose of old age pensions should be to provide for those who are worn out to the extent that they are no longer able to provide for themselves.

To grant pensions at 70 to those who don't need them, and refuse them to those whose occupations have worn them out at an earlier age, may be a wrong conception of the state's duty toward its citizens.

Serious study to the problem of prolonging the working life of the citizen might also be given.

The best old age security any person can have is the ability to do some useful work for which the world will pay. The longer we can keep people usefully active the more enjoyment they will get out of life and the less assistance they will need from the state.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help."
Isaiah 31:1

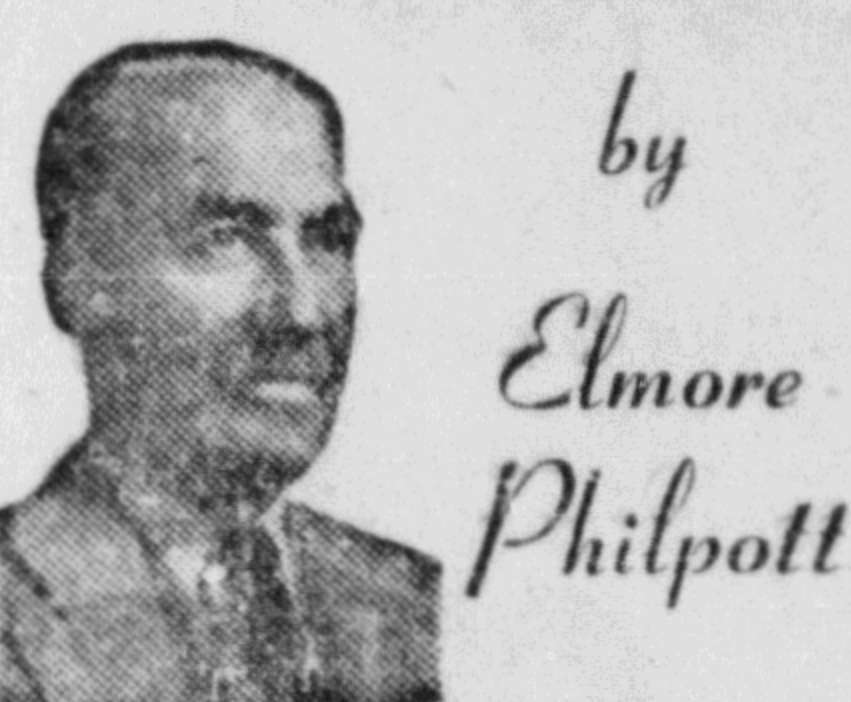
QUEER HABIT The raccoon has a well-known habit of dabbling its food in water before eating it.
EAGER CHEWER The porcupine will often gnaw the handles of tools for the salt left by perspiration.

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As I See It



Farm Boom and Bust

NEAR SASKATOON. — At the deepest part of the great depression I got the chance to know Saskatchewan well.

Here you saw at its worst the great paradox of our age—poverty in the midst of plenty—people half ragged and even half fed because they had produced too much.

Not too much for the human needs, even here, let alone in the vast hungry belly of the old world; but too much to keep the wheels of the commercial system turning profitably.

THESE PRAIRIES are really prosperous today. This is partly due to natural bounty—the tapping of vast new oil pools in Alberta; the surge north for new metals, such as uranium, and for new timber limits for lumber and pulp. It is partly due to the boom market for what the farmer has to sell.

There is only one big catch in it.

Saskatchewan farmers received \$119,986,000 from sale of wheat in 1939 and \$237,991,000 in 1949. Cattle and calves brought them \$8,987,000 in 1939 and \$74,011,000 in 1949. Dairy products rose from \$6,113,000 to \$21,876,000. Foultry income fell slightly, from \$3,210,000 to \$2,733,000. But income from egg sales rose from \$2,362,000 in 1939 to \$8,644,000 in 1949.

HERE are a few official figures which tell the big Saskatchewan story:

Cheques cashed (1939) \$788,000,000; (1949) \$2,412,000,000.
Personal income (1939) \$288,000,000; (1949) \$827,000,000.

Retail sales (1939) \$187,000,000; (1949) \$520,000,000.
Farm machinery sales (1939) \$8,380,000; (1949) \$72,032,777.

Number employed (1939) 30,000; (1949) 46,645.
Production (1939) \$302,000,000 gross; \$217,000,000 net; (1949) \$924,000,000 gross; \$495,000,000 net.

Electricity production (1939) 167,242,000 k.w.h. (1950) 400,062,000 k.w.h.

Telephone (1939) 83,000; (1949) 135,000.
Commercial failures (1939) 67; (1949) 2.

OUTSIDERS might think the Saskatchewan farmer did not have a care in the world. But just as stern experience has taught these people, that after the short hot summers, cruel winter comes rushing in on the wind from the north; so they know that world conditions could change overnight, to knock the bottom out of farm prices.

That is the real reason for the coming to new life and strength of the farmers' union movement. Believe it or not there is, right now, talk of a "farmers' strike." To me it sounds vague, and a bit woolly because I can't find out precisely what they would strike for, and whom against.

But I attach very great importance to the decision recently taken by the three prairie farm unions.
That in event of another war the farmers would refuse to take the short end of the stick, as they did last time.

Visiting Canadian Won Fair Souvenir

LONDON (CP)—Robert M. Fuller, principal of Douglass School at Windsor, Ont., journeyed all the way to London to acquire a lovely bunch of coconuts.

That wasn't the whole purpose of his trip, of course. He has visited Scotland and the continent and now is searching available records for traces of his ancestors who settled in Kent hundreds of years ago.

In London he was attracted to the fun fair while taking in the sights at the Festival of Britain along with his wife and young son. Fuller couldn't resist the temptation of trying his throwing arm when he stopped in front of a coconut stand.

He knocked down one coconut with the first pitch, and won two more in five tries. "Not bad for a guy who hasn't given the pitching arm a real workout since the days I was with the Canadian artillery in the First World War," said Fuller.

"But when I carried my prize into a crowded bus I had a difficult time convincing the amused passengers that it was going back home with me as a memento. They looked at me just as much as to say 'Another screwy Canadian!'"



"If that's the way you feel about it, I'll take my business elsewhere."

VICTORIA REPORT

Special Committees Costly Business—Reports Usually Forgotten

VICTORIA.—It costs B.C. taxpayers about \$400 a day every day the special legislative committees on hospital insurance and labor matters sit. There are eight MLA's on the hospital committee and five on the labor committee. Each receives \$20 a day, every day they're working, plus what's called by order-in-council "actual travelling expenses."

The \$20 a day is called "living allowance." Well, one can live pretty well and have a bit left over, probably, on \$20 a day, even in these days of inflation.

The two inquiries will cost about \$50,000 before they're through. In addition to the \$20 a day for members and the travelling expenses, there are office secretaries, office expenses and a certain amount of red tape.

The hospital insurance committee may be able to accomplish something but it's doubtful if the labor committee will be able to bring much that's new to light. Labor organizations have been hounding the government for years for amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The government has ignored the requests. Now a committee is supposed to find out what organized labor wants. What more can organized labor say?

Appointment of the labor committee was just the government stalling again. It will keep

Urges Lower Keys For Church Hymns

WELLINGTON, N. Z. (CP)—Church singing is being "ruined" by the absurd heights at which hymn tunes are set, in the opinion of Bishop R. H. Owen of Wellington.

"There would be a great improvement if the edition of ancient and modern hymns with tunes transposed to a lower key were more widely used by our organists," he said.

Bishop Owen said the throats of men were not made to produce sounds that could even approximate the heights laid down as necessary in the ordinary edition. Even women often found it a severe strain.

The tunes were written in the keys set because it was assumed that the singing would be done for the congregation by a trained choir of boys, the Bishop said. Many were quite unsuitable for congregational singing.

More Power In Interior Towns

Plans are reported to have already been drawn up for the increasing of power facilities in Hazelton and Houston. There will be in installation of 100 k.w. diesel units in both centres.

In Houston there will be an addition to the present building to house the new unit. A step-up bank will be installed, and there will be a permanent oil storage tank constructed so that oil, brought in by the railway can be stored.

In Hazelton where the power plant building is owned by the hospital, the necessary switch panels will be cut in, once the new unit is established there.

MOUNTAIN NAME Mount Geikie in British Columbia is named after Sir Archibald Geikie, Scottish geologist who died in 1924.

ray.. Reflects and Reminisces

Bernarr MacFadden, 81, who has been having Niagara Falls in mind for some weeks, is now evidently thinking he will be content to stay on land. Going over the falls in a barrel—or by parachute—is, he must be feeling a silly business. And anything it's no way to develop physical culture, something he knows a good deal about.

FEW SUBSTITUTES Garbage, not actually destroyed by fire, usually means a multiplication of rats. Prince Rupert discovered that 40 years ago. Plenty of poison reduced but did not exterminate. While we've been gravely warned against the danger of flames, it's nevertheless pretty hard to find an effective substitute for fire when dealing with something that brings disease and losses.

A small town is where everybody knows whose cheque is good and whose husband isn't.

An Egyptian won first prize in swimming the English Channel, thereby becoming entitled to \$2000. He, however, declined to accept it, because of strictures in the British press concerning Egypt's king. How noble! How touching, this loyalty! Just as if he did not already know the king had pledged \$18,000 to the winner.

WHAT ISN'T TOLD "Keeping up with the Joneses today," comments the News-Herald of Vancouver, has become a complicated problem. Just let a manufacturer turn out a new gadget in a domestic size and immediately the Joneses send in their order for one. The Joneses are not secretive. They tell you exactly where to go to get all the wonderful things they have. But they don't tell you how to get the money to pay for them.

Vancouver Rotarians are forbidden to stage the annual barrel contest in the Fraser River, an event similar to the yearly race in the Skeena, and which always arouses such wide interest. Why this prohibition? It's been going on, season after

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season, without the slightest suggestion of anything that should be barred. Or is it another sign of the increasing and disturbing tendency to interdict?

ALL IN A MONTH Still missing, the plane from Vancouver to Tokyo, with 38 aboard—also the fate of seven men off Vancouver Island. Mystery, as well, what really did happen to other fliers and passengers off Alaska. Airmen crash in Puget Sound. A huge bomber, not so high in air, falls on a Seattle apartment house, and next moment, flames destroy human beings and property. All this, in about a month, and in a coastal region that some would call small. The only recorded discovery of anything is wreckage of a U.S. Navy bomber that crashed in a canyon. A costly month!

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