

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and all the communities comprising northern and central British Columbia.

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AMAZING SUGGESTION

NO MATTER what we may think of its merits or lack of them, the latest justification for not building the Canadian National Steamships new coastal liner at the railway company's own dry dock at Prince Rupert is the most novel and interesting and certainly the most amazing we have heard yet. Hon. Lionel Chevrier, the minister of transport, suggests that it would not be good for Prince Rupert to get this contract because, after it was concluded, there would be a serious condition of unemployment in the city. That is, according to Mr. Chevrier, what Mr. Vaughan, the president of the railway company, told the people of Prince Rupert when he met them in the course of a recent visit to the city. Mr. Vaughan, to be sure, did not make any rash promises—in fact he was anything but encouraging and in fairness, we do not recall him having trumped up that excuse to placate the people here against inactivity at the dry dock.

It will be difficult indeed, we are sure, for the people of Prince Rupert to accept this latest argument that it would be inadvisable to have any work now because, after a while the work would be over, and it will be bad for us to be without jobs. In other words there will be unemployment some day so why not get it right away? Supposedly, if that is the argument for Prince Rupert, it is to be the policy for everywhere. It seems difficult to believe that the government has adopted a policy of having no work done at all anywhere because the work will end some day and everybody will be out of work. It is, indeed, a most amazing economic theory and it seems unbelievable

that a responsible minister of the crown should have given suggestion to it.

ECONOMICS OF PLENTY

THE WAY to a man's heart may not always be "through his stomach," but certainly that is a main highroad to world brotherhood and subsequent peace. For feast and famine, prosperity and poverty, in the same One World are constantly warring elements that make for recurrent strife. And no amount of hard-won agreement on boundaries and bombs will produce a happier world while a half to two thirds of its people continue to be seriously undernourished.

Thus the proposed establishment of a world food board to balance the world's scarcities and surpluses and outdate famine is one of the most important projects to be placed before the United Nations. Whereas the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization has power only to make studies and recommendations, the world food board would provide the actual international machinery to control both prices and products for the common good.

It would stabilize the world market, set up a food reserve (taking food off the market when the price fell below a certain figure), encourage increased production, and dispose of surplus agricultural commodities to needy countries at special prices.

This, of course, requires the co-operation of other international bodies, and the plan calls for participation by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Economic and Social Council, the proposed international trade organization, and so on.

Sponsors have a battle of their own on their hands to win over powerful nations and groups opposed to granting executive powers to any such body, to surmount tariff barriers, and defeat shortsighted, self-interest objections. Sir John Boyd Orr, Director General of FAO, has said this program "will need more planning and pooling between the nations than was required to win the war." But unless such planning and pooling is forthcoming, it will become more apparent than ever that the war has by no means been won!

PARTIES EXPECT BITTER CONTEST IN NEW ZEALAND

Election This Year to Be Straight Fight Between Labor and Nationalist Opposition

By J. C. GRAHAM

Canadian Press Correspondent
AUCKLAND, N.Z. (C)—Although New Zealand's first post-war election is not to be held until near the end of the year, most of the candidates have already been selected and campaigning has begun in what promises to be one of the most bitterly-fought campaigns in the Dominion's history.

It is clear the election will be a straight two-party contest between Labor, the party now in power, and the National Party opposition. There is no sign of a third party likely to have any influence on the result.

Although side-issues may be introduced, the election will be fought on the simple basis of whether, after 11 years uninterrupted in office, the Labor government's program of socialization has retained the confidence of the electors.

Labor came into power in 1935 on one of the greatest political landslides the country has ever known. Before that election the party had only 24 seats out of the 80 in the House of Representatives. In the 1935 poll, the Labor Party won 52 seats, the National Party 20, and minor parties and independents, 8.

This victory was repeated in 1938 when Labor won 50 seats, National 25, and minor parties and independents, 5. A swing away from Labor in the country was largely responsible for a reduction of the majority at the election in 1943, when the Labor Party retained all except two or three city seats and the National Party won almost all the seats where country voters predominated. Present state of the parties is Labor 44, National 35, Independent 1.

Prime Minister Peter Fraser has told his supporters quite frankly that the coming election is critical. "The next election will prove the Waterloo of either the Nationalists or the Labor Party," he said at a meeting of coalminers. "There is a grave danger that Labor may lose votes and even face a reverse." This could be prevented, he said, by maintaining production and keeping industries functioning.

Say Poverty Is Abolished

Labor party speeches in the final session of the present parliament have tended to enlarge on the claims made by the prime minister that the present govern-

ment has built up the best social structure in the world, that "no other country has abolished poverty as we have," and that New Zealand is the first country to give effect to the policy of full employment.

Speakers stress the achievements of the social security program, the state housing program and rehabilitation measures. They predict a progressive easing of taxation and forecast big benefits should the government be permitted to put into effect its 10-year program for opening up the country and developing industry.

The National Party program includes support for many measures which would be termed socialization in most countries. There are few out-and-out conservatives in New Zealand, which has always favored social experiment.

Its speakers have criticized the Labor Party's efforts to avoid inflation. They maintain

that taxation relief is long overdue and that only by giving an adequate incentive can production be increased. The National Party claims that its policy would reduce costs, increase production and prevent inflation without reducing wages. It holds that the government is upsetting the country's balance by attracting men from farms to industry. Nationalist members have given pledges to retain many of the government's measures such as social security and state housing, but maintain that there must be more opportunities for private enterprise and that state tenants should be permitted to buy their houses which at present can be held only on a rental basis.

HEALTHY DESSERT

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PROFITABLE POACHING
ELGIN, Scotland.—Poachers make £100 (\$400) a week selling salmon and trout from the Earl of Moray's stretch of the River Lossie, says the Elgin Angling Association.

As an indication of the value of their training, the school board in Oklahoma is to inaugurate a program to give newspaper carrier boys high school credits for the experience they have been gaining on their routes.

TO SPONSOR IG SHOW
CARDIFF, Wales (C)—The South Wales and Monmouthshire Industries Association will sponsor a big industrial show in London in August and September, 1947.

Greeting the PAIGES...

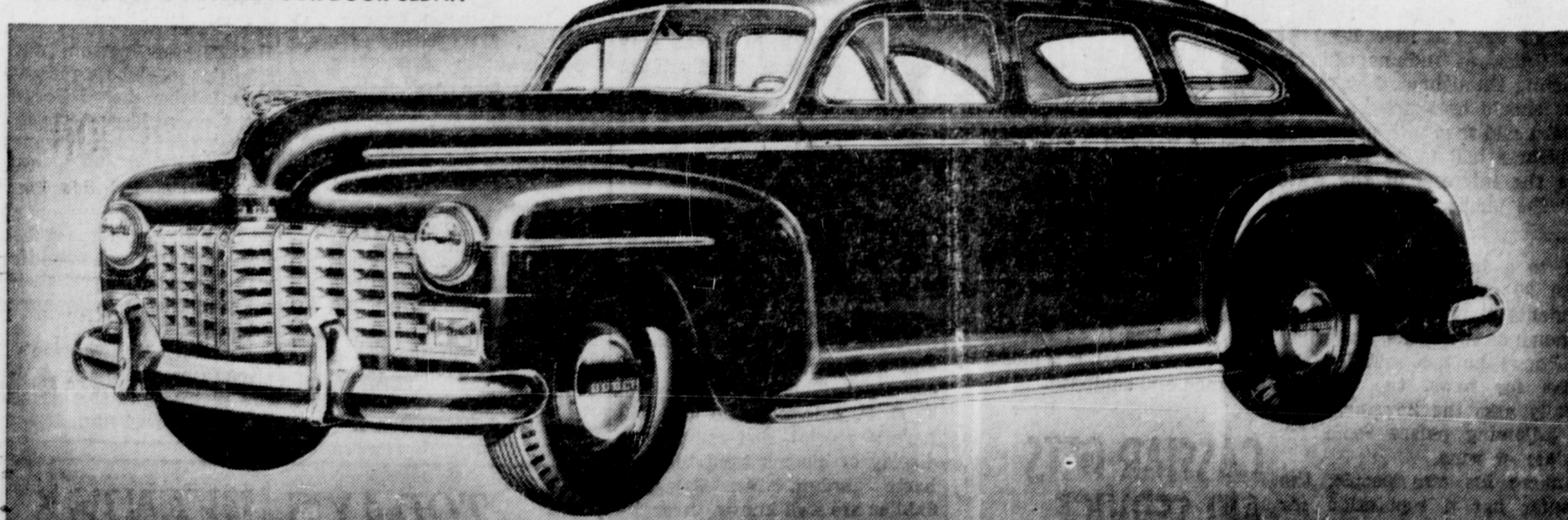
THE NEW DODGE

Lindsay Motors Ltd. offer their congratulations to Chief Petty Officer Paige and Mrs. Paige on their successful drive from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, driving their 1935 Dodge sedan 4,913 miles, not only proving Dodge dependability, but giving Prince Rupert and the Skeena Highway much-needed publicity.

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