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MEMBER A.B.C.

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Forestry Policy

There is general applause to Chief Justice Sloan for the monumental report he has compiled as Commissioner on forest resources and operations, after a most exhaustive inquiry.

None should be more concerned over the recommendations he has made than the operators, workers and merchants in the district from Prince Rupert through the central interior. The livelihood and investments of many people here are directly or indirectly tied up to the lumber industry.

He warns us that:

"The sands are running out and the time is now upon us when the present policy of unmanaged liquidation of our forest wealth must give way to the imperative concept of a planned forest policy designed to maintain our forests. Our forest land must be regarded as a source of renewable crops and not as a mine to be exploited and abandoned."

He recommends renewable crops or a sustained yield policy; adequate protection against fire and disease; greater planting; licensing of all interior mills and no new licenses to be granted; a severance tax on E & N timber on Vancouver Island; forest revenues to be diverted from the consolidated revenues of the province and the whole forest administration, management and expenditures be placed under a commission. He goes further and states:

"The commission should also be given jurisdiction to assess forest industries and collect whatever taxation levies might be found necessary to meet the financial requirements of the commission should the direct forest revenues prove inadequate and general provincial revenue be not available for that purpose."

This last quoted recommendation is a startling one and appears to have escaped the attention of the metropolitan press and many operators. We are of the opinion no commission should have this right of taxation and assessment until the proposed tax and assessment is approved by the Legislature or at least the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. It may be argued the Workmen's Compensation Board has that right. But we believe they ought not to possess such a right unless assessments are approved by order-in-council or the Legislature.

The government would be well advised to ponder deeply the transference of the forest administration, management and assessment from the department to another board or commission, thereby nullifying the power of the Legislature over the forestry administration.

We challenge the assertions so frequently made by pressure groups that boards and commissions administer public business better than departmental heads. The former al-

ways provide in their statutes that by one way or another the members of the Legislature can not call the commissions before House committees. Questions about their administration are usually ruled out of order. Department heads and deputy ministers are subject to the closest scrutiny of the Legislature. As they are dealing with public business, that is as it should be.

There must also be considered the effect upon small operators in the interior should the sustained yield policy be enacted. Some thought must be given to working out a method by which the small operators are not ruthlessly put out of business. The small operators as a group are usually better up-builders of the towns and villages than at least some of the larger operators who maintain closed towns, operate their own stores and commissaries and buy in Vancouver or Edmonton.

Unless the local operators look out and present a practical method to the government by which they can operate under the new forest policy recommended by Mr. Justice Sloan they will find themselves out of timber and out of business.

* * *

Must Give to Get

In connection with the effort to induce large industry to establish at Prince Rupert, the city council and the citizens will almost, certainly, be faced with the necessity of deciding upon some line of policy in the way of offering concessions. It might be that special rates would be asked on utilities or that special tax concessions might be sought. Or the city might have it in its power or its influence to bring about other concessions and be called upon to do so.

The nature of the concessions are but incidental. The general principle is the thing. And on this matter of policy, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the sooner some decision is made the better. In fact, it is said that there are major industries already thinking of establishing here and that their decisions as to whether or not they shall locate here at Prince Rupert may be to large extent governed by how far the city is ready to go in the matter of inducements that it is in the local power to give or encourage.

Many important industrial cities—one of them Vancouver—have become such through making generous concessions. It seems almost certain that if we are to encourage industries to come here we too will have to be generous and forget anything in the way of picayune attitudes.

And it might be a good investment, too, to make concessions. One does not need to stretch the imagination very far to appreciate how much this community would benefit from, say, a permanent industry of one, two, three or more thousand payroll. It would be worth a real substantial ante in the way of civic concessions to obtain.

The city council, itself, cannot make the final decision but it has to endorse and approve the bylaws covering the concessions which would then go to the ratepayers by whom they would have to be approved by a sixty percent vote.



LAUNCHING OF COASTER—These pictures were taken recently on the occasion of the launching of the 15000-ton coastal freighter Ottawa Palette at the Prince Rupert dry dock. Mrs. W. F. Stone is seen as she hurled a bottle of B.C. wine against the bow of the receding hull as it started to move down the ways. She is being assisted by Bernard Allen, dry dock manager. The little girl is Valerie Davis who presented Mrs. Stone with a bouquet. Miss Evelyn Macdonald and Mrs. Robert Cameron are also seen in the launching group. The smaller picture shows Ottawa Palette, flagbedecked on the stocks, immediately before the launching. —Photos by E. John Wilson.

Wrennettes Here— Charm For Sea Cadets

In recent months the local unit of Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps has embarked on a new development. They have enrolled "wrennettes." This is based on the organization that gave such splendid assistance to the Navy during the war. Locally these girls have taken over much of the clerical work of the Corps. This releases the cadets who formerly did it so that they can obtain the maximum of training "on deck." The girls are doing a good job. In addition they are getting training in rifle shooting. Under the capable and experienced eye of that enthusiastic rifle shot, Theo. Fortune, the girls have been getting practice on the range. And they are doing well.

Material has been obtained for the uniforms for the wrennettes and when they have been made and the girls turn out on parade there is no doubt that they will add charm to what is already recognized as an outstanding cadet corps in the province. The girls who are doing such a fine job are Lorraine Barbe, Yvonne Bouvette, Edith Jordan, Joyce McDonald, Yvonne Simonson, Ruth Walton, Maresa Windle and Nina Youngman.

The Sea Cadet unit is carrying on steadily and very successfully. Over 100 are enrolled and go through a varied and comprehensive training in the Naval Drill Hall. In addition to the basic training there is the development of the ability to take charge of a situation and handle it efficiently and successfully.

NOT AT HOME
LIVERPOOL, Eng. — Mrs. Annette Morgan, an Estonian woman in search of her British husband, arrived in Liverpool recently via Russia, Finland and Sweden—to find that Peter Morgan, merchant seaman, is in the Far East.

SILK SIDELIGHT
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Little Long Lac	3.25
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MacLeod Cockshutt	3.65
Moneta	.79
Omega	.33
Pickle Crow	4.60
San Antonio	5.65
Senator Rouyn	1.38
Sheritt Gordon	3.15
Steep Rock	3.75
Sturgeon River	.36
Lynx	.38
Osisko	1.48
God's Lake	.71 1/2

Scottish Rector Goes On Strike

GREENOCK, Scotland — Rev. J. Noel Lyth, rector of St. John's Episcopal church, said in a New Year letter to his congregation here that he was on strike. "I will neither marry nor bury you nor baptize your children unless your claim in terms of church-going is good. This is not just a piece of fancy writing. I am on strike," the letter said. "I hope that what I have to say will offend a good many of you if, being offended, you are also challenged to some serious thinking about the duties and obligations of church-people." In an interview later

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Open-Mouthed Pose Pride of Anglers

NORTH BAY, Ont. — Ernest Couchal, 57-year old Cree Indian who has stuffed several thousand fish, says he lives for the day when "an angler doesn't want his catch mounted with its mouth open." One of six commercial taxidermists in Canada, he said he has stuffed every animal in Canada except the polar bear.

Mr. Couchal employs his own method in cutting birds. Unlike the usual taxidermists, he slits his specimens up the back, not the front. On the back the feathers are usually dark, so the tear won't be apparent. When the papier mache has been placed inside, the bird falls in line like an overcoat.

Turning out 500 mounts annually, from ducks to bears, he charges the standard rate of 60 cents an inch or \$2 a deer head and clears about \$2,500 a year. He pays no rent as his factory 300 yards inside the Niissing reserve, is a one-roomed garage. He needs few tools, has no telephone, works by coal-oil lamp and wood stove. Rather than use arsenic, which he says is dangerous near cuts, he mixes his own effective compound to cure skins.

A 300-pound bear is the biggest animal he ever mounted; a 52-pound trout the biggest fish. Mr. Couchal made no mistake when he decided to take a correspondence course in taxidermy "because it looked prosperous."

Mr. Lyth said, "This church, like every other, has backsliders and it is my aim to give them a good electric shock."

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Whifflets From The Waterfront
Two Canadian Pacific steamships are arriving in port today, sailing later for Vancouver. At 3:30 p.m. the Princess Norah, Capt. Thomas Cliff, is due southbound from Alaska ports, while the Princess Louise, Capt. Carl Anderson, is due to arrive at 7 o'clock this evening, sailing for Vancouver probably about midnight.

Union steamer Catala, Capt. Ernest Sheppard, arrived in port at 12 o'clock last night from Vancouver and waypoints, sailing at 6 o'clock this morning for Stewart and other northern points whence she will return here tomorrow afternoon, returning south.
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