Prince Rupert Daily News

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Road To Utopia

THE OLD SUBJECT of British Columbia's ability to carry on industrial activity and at the same time maintain a higher overhead structure through wages and standards in excess of those of eastern provinces against which she is forced to compete is raised in the Legislature by Air Marshal Leigh Stevenson, the Progressive-Conservative member for Vancouver-Point Grey.

The comment of Air Marshal Stevenson smacked very much of the idea that British Columbia standards must be held down if there was not to be very serious loss of industry by this province to the East.

It is obvious enough that, when competition becomes keen and it is heading in that direction now, industries will be forced to cut their production costs and moving from the high costs of British Columbia to such provinces as Ontario and Quebec, with their sweat shop tendencies, may be the resort of some of them.

The ideal, of course, is not to force British Columbia to lower her standards or take the consequences but to raise the standards of the East. The same theory then projects itself then into the international field—the raising of the standards of all the peoples of the world rather than the dropping of the high standards to meet the low ones, a policy by which, in the ultimate, there is no hope for the improvement of man in any phase of his existence.

There will be agreement with Air Marshal Stevenson that labor leaders may not be "leading up the garden path" by being too precipitate with their demands under present conditions but there must also be sympathy with those sincere and conscientious leaders who strive reasonably and patiently for a gradual betterment of conditions for common men and women compatible with the realistic situation of the day.

British Columbia's prosperity, in the long range view, cannot rest on a foundation of lower living and working conditions to meet similar conditions in other parts of Canada or the world. Along that way lies an equally thorny path of cruel competition and exploitation.

It is all a very difficult problem and changing conditions do not make it the easier. It is the problem of finding and agreeing upon the road to Utopia.

* * *

Not Even Education

ELSEWHERE in this paper today we tell of a sizeable native village up the Naas River where there are sixty children between the ages of six and sixteen who are going uneducated because no teacher can be obtained for their school. Nor is it the first time that the same village has been faced with a similar condition of affairs. In fact it is all too common a situation in the native villages.

We talk of raising the standards of the natives but we are not accomplishing very much on behalf of their development—for which we have definite responsibilities—if we fail in a very basic perquisite of making them the good citizens that they are capable of becoming, that perquisite being providing their children with education.

We are failing with our handling of the Indians and it is not good enough to throw up our hands and say there is nothing we can do about it.

* * *

It's Summer Now

PRESS DISPATCHES telling about the Royal Visit to South Africa remind us that January and February are months of summer sunshine down there. Harvesting begins in some parts of the country in December; it is in full swing now. On the farms, in the clear sharp sunlight, the air is filled with the dust and noise of reaping; hum of tractors, and the clatter of harvesters.

In the city now, fruit shops and street-side barrows have fat peaches and fragrant apricots, sweet nectarines, and strawberries, raspberries and mulberries. Tomatoes are getting cheaper, and so is all garden produce; green stuff is springing abundantly in well-watered kitchen gardens. There are advertisements in the papers asking men and women to go to the country to pick fruit and peas and beans.

South Africa life in February is spent much in the open air. There is a migration to the beaches, for the school holidays, which began in December, last through January into February.

Big Statue Bears "Honorable Wound"

LONDON, (CP)—In a niche on the wall of Bush House, big business block on the Strand, a 20-ton statue representing the New World reached out, until July 1944, for a torch held by another colossus symbolizing the Old World. One night a blast from a flying bomb took off the New World statue's outstretched arm above the elbow. It will never get the torch now, for it has been decided that the lost arm is an "honorable wound," said R. D. Peak, managing director of the building.

SMOKER'S BRIAR

Briar-root is a hard wood obtained from the root of a common heath-plant in the south of France and is used in the manufacture of pipes.

MALDON, Essex, Eng., (CP) — Emily Smith, 84-year old widow died of burns when her clothes caught fire as she stood over a stove preparing dinner.

U.S. RIGHTIST TREND PERILS WORLD PEACE

Election of a Republican president in the United States in 1948 might pave the way for a similar conservative movement in Canada, Prince Rupert Citizens' Forum weekly discussion group decided last night in anlyzing the topic of 'Government, Business and Labor—the American Trend."

Since American influences in domestic and foreign policy are felt strongly in Canada, a swing toward the right in the executive branch of government across the line would encourage a similar, though modified conservative movement here, the meeting agreed.

The present conservative trend of the American legislative branches might also lead to the partial withdrawal of that country from the United Nations with a consequent weakening effect on world peace.

Forum members foresaw in the current revival of remnants of midwest isolationism the danger of a recurrence of the American denial of world responsibility which followed the first World War.

This, they agreed, could conceivably lead to a chaotic world condition similar to that which preceded and contributed to the second World War. Only in the present case, the cycle might be shorter and the consequent explosion more devastating.

Despite the fact that Republican domination of the American House and Senate resulted mainly from popular opinion on domestic issues at last November's elections, the conservative trend as it has already begun to show in the international field might result in qualified or partial withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations.

The result, the Forum agreed, would have a weakening effect on world peace, ending in an accelerated armaments race.

Chairman of last night's discussion was Ex-Alderman George Hills.

FERTILIZERS FOR INTERIOR

After three years of comparative tests of various commercial fertilizer materials throughout the area of Central British Columbia the Dominion Experimental Station at Prince George has found that all field crops have responded with increased yields to materials containing nitrogen or phosphorous, or both of these elements. The amount of the increase in yield in all the tests has been sufficiently large to return an encouraging profit after deducting the cost of the fertilizer. It pays to use fertilizer on various crops such as grain hay and clover seed, certainly those containing phosphorous and nitrogen.

For cereal grains all of the these elements have given increased yields in Northern B.C. The largest increase in yield however, has been obtained from applications of ammonium phosphate 16-20 when applied at a comparative rate.

For the clover seed crop, information in regard to the most suitable fertilizer is not yet as definite as for other crops. However, ammonium phosphate 16-20 and ammonium phosphate 2-20 have given excellent increases in the yield of hay crops.

VICTORIA OLIGARCHY

Editor,
Daily News:

With 140,000,000 people the United States gets along with an executive of 11. British Columbia, with less than one million, has 10 and 16 deputies claiming our ministers are overworked. If they are, how do those in Washington manage to get by?

Their last extravagance is the creation of a Deputy Minister of Fisheries. We have no control over our fisheries until they are on shore. Then it becomes a factory and licence collecting problem and should come under existing bureaus.

The fish processing tax in this province is outrageous compared to fees in the Maritimes. Why should a salmon cannery pay a greater tax than a woodworking plant?

The policy of the oligarchy at Victoria is to extract from the public every possible penny and use same to perpetrate their inefficiency.

This money is coming largely from timber and exhaustible assets and our appetite for liquor. They have a monopoly for themselves of the latter and have no conscience and the public stands for it.

They are now spending $7,000,000 on a 150 mile road—should say "trail" as that is all we have in B.C. and there is not a school along the whole stretch.

Are they going to pull coal, cattle and wheat from the Peace by truck? If not—what? The money was voted and not one member raised his voice in protest, yet the majority of the members were living in communities that you cannot travel over with comfort.

The government has become Nigger rich and our members—rubber stamps.

DISGUSTED.

WANTED—CONCILIATOR

MELBOURNE (AP)—Matrimonial conciliation to check the increase in divorces is proposed by Attorney General Martin of New South Wales. "The work cannot be left in charge of anyone but a highly trained person, and I will search the world for such a person to run our bureau if such a person does not exist in New South Wales," he said.

TWAIN LOST OUT

Alexander Graham Bell tried to persuade Mark Twain to invest $500 in his telephone invention. Instead, the author loaned the money to a friend who went bankrupt later.

FISHERMEN SEEK LEGAL CURTAILMENT

Members of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union at a meeting last night re-affirmed their stand that a voluntary curtailment scheme in the halibut fishery is not feasible, emphasizing their belief that curtailment must have the legal backing of the International Fisheries Commission.

The fishermen passed along to the Vessel Owners' Association a suggestion by the Vancouver Deep Sea Fishermen's Union that the federal government pass an order-in-council forcing all vessels, regardless of size, to report to a customs port before leaving for the fishing grounds.

The Vancouver suggestion indicated that this in effect would act as a method of curtailment and equalize the chances of all boats to get a fair share of fish during the halibut season.

Members of the local union were unanimous in their doubt that such a scheme could be legally justified but decided to seek the reaction of the vessel owners.

At present, only vessels of more than five tons come under control of the Fisheries Commission.

Financial matters involving the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union and the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative also were discussed and the union decided to call a further special meeting with the Co-operative on Sunday night to continue the discussions.

Chairman was John Syness, union president.

FREIGHT RATE BOOST "NEEDED"

OTTAWA (CP)—G. [illegible] A. Walker, C.P.R. vice-president, told the Board of Transport Commissioners Tuesday that "a prompt increase in freight rates must be made if sound economic conditions in transportation are to be restored." The proposed increase is necessary, he said, to provide "adequate and efficient service."

COMMEMORATE PRINCE

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A memorial fund in honor of Prince Gustaf Adolf, intended to promote character building and education among Swedish boys and girls, has been started. Chairman is the prince's cousin, Count Folke Bernadotte, who preceded him as head of the Swedish Boy Scout organization.

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GREAT CANADIAN NAMES IN THE WORLD OF SCIENCE

NO. 1 BANTING

On a fateful night in October, 1920, a half-formed theory in the mind of Frederick Grant Banting, struggling young Canadian surgeon, crystallized . . . and tens of thousands of men, women and children doomed to an early grave were given new hope for life by the blessing of Insulin. Diabetes, scourge of millions, was no longer an automatic death sentence to its victims.

On this Autumn evening, after four years service in World War I as a medical officer, Banting was engaged in his duties as a part-time teacher at the Medical School of Toronto University. In his typically careful and conscientious way, he plodded through the vast mass of accumulated data on the pancreas in preparation for his lecture on diabetes the next morning. As he wearily closed the last medical journal of the evening, his attention was suddenly arrested by a report by Baron on the pancreatic ducts.

In that instant the great idea was born. Sleep was out of the question. At 2 a.m. Banting got up and wrote three short sentences in his notebook. "Tie off pancreatic ducts of dogs. Wait 6 to 8 weeks for degeneration. Remove residue and extract." Those three sentences were to start him on the way to world recognition and the Nobel Prize.

Years of useful service to humanity came to an end on the lonely shores of Newfoundland in February, 1941, when a trans-Atlantic plane on a vital secret mission to Britain fell from the sky carrying three men to their deaths. One of them was Sir Frederick Banting, discoverer of Insulin, who, at the age of 48, died as he had lived, gloriously in the service of humanity.

Published as a contribution to the wider appreciation of the notable part that the scientists of this nation, twenty-ninth among the countries of the world numerically, has played in the drama of human enlightenment. Offered in the public service by . . .

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