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An Economic Victory

THE ORDER by the Board of Transport for the removal of the historic mountain differential rate on freight hauled by the railways through the Rocky Mountains is a great economic victory for British Columbia. For many years, British Columbia has irked under and protested against this discriminatory differential. It had seemed at many times an almost forlorn hope. Now the Transport Board, at long last, has seen the justice of this western province's contention. To Attorney General G. S. Wismer and his staff who argued the case before the Board with such evidently convincing success congratulations are due on their long hoped for and truly climactic accomplishment.

Of primary importance and benefit to the province is the removal of the differential on freight shipments. It means a saving after July 1 of twenty-five percent on haulage between the Pacific and the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The existence of the differential has long been a handicap to shipments of products East from the coast and likewise a hardship adding to the cost of commodities brought from the East to the coast.

The present order of the Board of Transport Commissioners, it is to be noted, applies only to freight. There is a similar differential on passenger rates which is not such a fundamental hardship but the equalization of which may likewise be reasonably anticipated.

ARE YOU ON LIST?

THERE IS just one more week—up to next Monday—for citizens of British Columbia to make sure that their names are on the voters' list for the June 15 provincial election. It should be understood that there is no automatic registration. Because one voted in the last provincial election does not mean that he or she is still on the list. For some months there has been a deputy registrar actually canvassing for names but, in spite of that, there are believed to be many citizens whose names are not on the list. During recent days, it is reported that no small number of people who had been sure their names were on the list have found, on checking, that they were not.

Since a primary function of citizenship is to exercise the franchise, it is being suggested that everybody ascertain definitely that they are actually registered. It would be better to be sure now than sorry later. The registrar of voters, who is the government agent, has stated that his staff is being detailed to concentrate in the time intervening between now and the final registration date—May 2—on the answering of inquiries of citizens as to whether or not they are on the list and to register all those who are not. While the electoral authorities are doing everything possible to ensure that everybody qualified is on the voters' list, it is after all the personal responsibility of every good citizen to see that he or she actually is.

FORMOSA'S POSITION

FORMOSA, named "Beautiful Island" some 400 years ago by Portuguese explorers, may become the refuge spot of Chinese nationalist leaders who have fled from Nanking, to set up, possibly, in the meantime at Canton. The nationalists have been for some time concentrating capital, airplanes, manpower and industry there.

If the Formosans consent to this influx of high Chinese officials, the island may become a center of nationalist influence, eventually seeking recognition as an independent country. It might join the Philippines and provide financial and technical aid to that little country, now embarked on a perilous adventure in extending western influence to the orient. It might even help organize a new nation of the United States of Asia, with perhaps Japan, the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies as members.

History has done some strange things to the world's maps through the years, some of them even as strange as this.

Letters to the Editor

CONSERVATIVE POSITION

Editor, Daily News:
We wish to express our approval of your editorial of the 20th which pointed out the necessity for co-operation between the two political parties comprising the Coalition. Our approval is not of the eleventh hour type as we have consistently maintained that only by complete co-operation could we hope to defeat the socialist forces in this constituency. We have repeatedly emphasized this in our conversations with representative Liberals on numerous occasions. It was the dominant motif in our re-organization meeting of three weeks ago and has inspired us to refrain from proposing any candidate or taking any public action which would in any way jeopardise the principle of Coalition.

The developments of the past week have caused us to wonder if co-operation is really possible. Co-operation, Mr. Editor, means working together and that implies mutual confidence in each other's aims and intentions.

As you know, our party called a nominating convention for April 18 as the Liberals had taken similar action previously. Also, we appointed a committee to meet the Liberals to discuss the mechanics of arranging joint action and, at the same time, call off the two nominating conventions. On April 14 our committee met with theirs and, after a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to call off both nominating conventions and appoint delegates to a Coalition convention at which names of possible candidates would be presented. It was further agreed that no nominating of candidates by either party would take place previous to that meeting. These decisions were subject to ratification by the Liberal executive as their committee had no power to act.

The Liberal executive met and following the meeting, the president advised us that the executive agreed to our proposals and it would be in order for us to cancel our nominating convention. They, in turn, would change theirs to an annual meeting at which delegates would be appointed but no candidates nominated. We cancelled our convention by notice in your paper of April 16.

It now transpires, Mr. Editor, that the Liberal executive did not agree to our proposals and in fact, our suggestions were not even presented to the Liberal convention on April 19 with the result that candidates were nominated at that meeting and delegates appointed and instructed to support the Liberal candidate.

We will refrain from calling this action by its proper name, Mr. Editor, but we would like to point out the inevitable consequences. The Progressive-Conservatives have no alternative now than to call a similar nominating convention, nominate their candidate and appoint an equal number of delegates and instruct them to support our candidate. As any one can see, the result is a deadlock and we deplore having to take this step which is utterly foreign to our ideas of co-operative action.

We respectively suggest through your columns—for apparently we cannot reach the rank and file of Liberals through the usual channels—that a Coalition convention should mean something entirely different. Properly set up, both parties should appoint an equal number of delegates without instruction, and an election take place in a manner to be determined by agreement between the two parties and in accordance with democratic principles.

We have again suggested this procedure to the Liberal executive and have been informed that they do not agree to any change in their procedure. It is therefore, with extreme regret that we take our next step which is essential if we are to protect the interests of the anti-socialist portion of our community and call a nominating convention. Although the possibility of co-operation from the Liberals now seems entirely remote, we are still prepared to do everything in our power to cause the selection and election of a coalition candidate to reflect the will of the people of this constituency rather than that of a single political party.

MINISTER'S RIGHT

Editor, Daily News:
Some discussion has arisen regarding a remark which you attributed to Rev. Dr. Peter Kelly in your issue of April 22. In your article regarding the native vote you said, "To those who ask him, Dr. Kelly has been suggesting that it might be appropriate for them to express their 'Thank-you' by means of the ballot to the government which took the step for the first time of granting them the franchise. Assuming that you have quoted Dr. Kelly correctly there are two things which I would like to say.

First, I want to defend a minister's right both to have and to express an opinion on a political question. The fact that you may occasionally disagree with

them is no justification for demanding that ministers in general be deaf and dumb politically. Secondly, whatever Dr. Kelly may have said, I must point out that he is not speaking for the church but as a private citizen.

R. A. WILSON,
Chairman, Prince Rupert
Presbytery,
United Church of Canada.

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CANCER CANVASS STARTING TODAY

Canvass for the 1949 Conquer Cancer Campaign in Prince Rupert commenced today with Mrs. William Rothwell taking charge of the downtown canvass while other teams of women volunteers are operating in the residential areas. All are under the direction of campaign chairman Rev. Fred Antrobus.

The canvassers are Mrs. William Rothwell, Mrs. W. Wallace, Mrs. W. J. Richards, Mrs. Glen Hebb, Mrs. Frank Ellison, Mrs. J. R. Elfert, Mrs. W. Davies, Mrs. A. Holbrook, Mrs. J. Addleman, Mrs. Fred Antrobus, Mrs. G. A. Hunter, Mrs. J. C. Gilker, Mrs. G. V. Hanley, Mrs. W. J. Lineham, Mrs. D. Kerr, Mrs. W. Murdoch, Mrs. R. Scherk, Mrs. J. Marshall, Mrs. A. Everleigh, Mrs. R. Nesbitt, Mrs. W. Garbutt, Mrs. H. Anderson, Mrs. Alex Pihera, Mrs. A. Wallin and Mrs. W. Anderson.

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WHAT IS IT? This unusual looking animal is believed to be the offspring of a Holstein cow and a deer. Sam G. Clarkson, farmer near Hamilton, Ont., shown with the animal, says the calf is reddish brown, unlike the mother's black and white color. The head is furry, rounded on top, and the horn buttons are further back and higher than on the head of a normal calf. "It doesn't bawl like a calf; it doesn't make any sound at all," Mr. Clarkson says. "It runs like a deer and wants to jump all over the place. Even the hind legs are crooked like a deer." (CP Photo)

Mr. and Mrs. T. Olsen were to spend the summer, Mr. Olsen being in charge of the cannery which is now operated as a fish-boat camp.

It's been a busy year!...

This week many thousands of Canadians will be reading the story told in Imperial Oil's annual report. It is a story of how, to meet your needs, Imperial last year found more crude oil, produced more crude, transported, refined, distributed and marketed more oil and products than ever before.

To do this we had to spend a lot of money. We sent men ranging over thousands of square miles in the search for new oil fields—and we found new oil. We built new ships... new pipe lines... new refining units... new marketing facilities... and a host of other things. Again last year we spent more money than we earned, but it was an investment in Canada's future as well as our own.

We raised most of the money we needed by borrowing and by selling some of our major investments; the rest was earnings put back into the business after paying dividends.

On the year's business we made a profit of less than a cent a gallon on products sold. This amounted to 4 and 9/10ths cents out of each sales dollar we received.

It was a busy, successful, interesting year. When it began we were sometimes hard pressed to meet all your needs; when it ended supplies were assured. It saw new oil discovered, making Canada less dependent on foreign supplies; new equipment added, helping to serve Canadians better with the products they need.

Bringing you oil is a big job—and a costly one.

If you're interested in facts...
1948 set new records in all phases of Imperial Oil's operations. If the wells drilled by the company to find and produce oil in Canada during 1948 were placed end to end they would total 163 miles.
Five large tankers were added to the company's fleets; the Leduc pipe line was extended to Edmonton, and plans progressed for a pipe line from Edmonton to Regina; 4,711 tank cars moved more than 150,000 car loads of crude oil and products.
Imperial's eight refineries processed an average of 135,027 barrels per day, a new record.
Sales totalled 1,819,000,000 gallons. On its operations the company earned \$16,873,163—a profit of 93/100 of a cent per gallon for each of the 1,819,000,000 gallons sold. From its investments the company earned \$5,968,907.

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