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Livening Up House

FEW CAN DENY that, during the past half dozen years or even longer ago, parliamentary life in Canada has been singularly free of the sensational, the unexpected, or an incident calculated to cause public discussion, or front page scareheads. It's all been discreet, cautious and so proper.

But with an election approaching, subjects yearning for introduction and a general sense of expectation there are already signs of a change. Whatever form it takes can hardly be disappointing to the people of the provinces, and that may go, just as well, for Newfoundland. For there has been too long a feeling of too great a centralization of federal authority at one end and too much uncertainty and restlessness at the other, with the distance between widening all the time, and an objctive, such as national unity and understanding becoming a matter of less not more urgency. Any developments at Ottawa that will see the asking of questions, the threshing out of vital, timely issues on the floor of the House will not be wholly unwelcome.

RAGS AND JEWELS

A SMALL ITEM from India tells a big story. The private estate of the Nizam of Hyderabad is to be nationalized. The land totals about 7,000 square miles in area and nets the Nizam an annual income of perhaps $10,000,000. The Indian government claims that very little of this has gone back into improvements; most of it, they say, goes to swell the Nizam's fabulous private fortune, including his far-famed jewels.

The telltale fact about this sort of anachronistic feudalism is that in recent years Hyderabad has become a stronghold of Communist agitation. Communism can always be counted on to take hold where millions of ignorant people live under the shadow of a vast injustice. The announced intention of the Indian government to bring a greater measure of social justice to Hyderabad's millions holds out hope for an attack on the causes rather than merely the effects of communism in this land of rags and jewels.

PRESS CONFERENCE

THE PREMIERS and the press are seeing more of each other these days. More press conferences are being held and these are much less formal although there is no back-slapping or easy "asides."

Where once, the correspondent met Mackanzie King every six months and Bracken every few years, it's now coming down to get-together chats every few weeks and this goes both for the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The system should make for an improved relationship and, in the long run, a clearer understanding of public affairs.

MAYBE NO FLOODS

MOUNTAIN REGIONS east and north of the Bulkley country have not had exceptionally heavy snow falls, say those who, because of residence there, are able to speak with some authority.

Spring floods, involving rivers such as the Skeena and Fraser, have usually had their sources in the melting snows far back from the coast. But, according to what is said this year, there has been no great depth, and that gives rise to the hope that whatever high water there may be, it cannot be classed as flood. This, while not warranting too great a confidence, is at least reassuring.

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I.O.D.E. HELPS MANY CAUSES; MRS. MUNTHE AGAIN HEADS ORDER

Gratifying reports of the work of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire were read at the annual meeting Monday evening in the Common Lounge of the Civic Centre. There was an attendance of over forty members with Mrs. Jens Munthe, Regent of Municipal Chapter, in the chair

To the strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" the officers entered the room following the four standard bearers, attired in white, carrying the flag for their respective chapter

Following the formal opening Mrs. Munthe presented a brief review of the year's work after which reports of the different officers and conveners were presented.

With the dispersal of Hill 60 Chapter at the beginning of 1948, a new chapter of "war brides" was formed, namely, the Duchess of Edinburgh Chapter. This chapter closed its first year of activity with a splendid report. The members had enjoyed meeting and working with the young women who have come from across the sea to live here and today it was felt that the term "war brides" was a thing of the past. They were not only fellow members of an organization working together but fellow Canadians as well.

Due to the sale of the I.O.D.E property in the city the Order was able to make substantial donations in the amounts of $900 to the I.O.D.E. War Memorial Fund; $900 to the Endowment Fund and $500 to the Cancer Fund. The balance was divided among the chapters to be used to further the work of the Order in Prince Rupert and district.

It was reported that Municipal Chapter had put up a scholarship of $100 to be given the graduating student of Booth Memorial High School in June, 1949. This, it was hoped, would become an annual undertaking. The following grants had also been made during the year by the Primary chapters for the expansion of school libraries:

Borden Street School, $20.
King Edward School, $25.
Booth Memorial School, $50.
Conrad Street School, $50.
Port Essington School, $10.
Port Edward School, $10.

Pictures of the King and Queen were placed in the last-mentioned two schools.

Queen Mary Chapter had adopted a ward in the new wing of the Prince Rupert General Hospital and planned to furnish same. A new lamp and cabinet were purchased by Cambrai Chapter for their ward in the local hospital.

HELP FOR OVERSEAS

During the year 81 food parcels were sent by the Prince Rupert chapters to Great Britain valued at $362.17 while two were sent to needy families on the Continent. The names of these two families were submitted by one of the Belgian members. A total of 187 articles of new clothing valued at $188.80 have been forwarded to Provincial for overseas shipment. Twenty nursery bags were sent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in London, England. The sum of $140 was given to the British and European Child Relief Fund.

A relief fund for a lighthouse keeper and his family who lost everything in a winter storm was sponsored by the I.O.D.E. with the co-operation of the Daily News. Gifts of clothing, food and coal were made to needy families in the city during the year as well as hampers and toys for the children at Christmas

At Christmas gifts were also made to each of the residents of the Pioneers' Home and to the girls from Europe who were working in the local hospital.

Thirteen military markers were placed on soldiers' graves in the local cemetery as well as one in the Smithers cemetery for a local veteran

The Order sponsored a Tag Day in October in aid of the Canadian Institute for the Blind and the Emergency Relief Fund was assisted financially.

The I.O.D.E. had a member on the executive of the Prince Rupert Music and Drama Festival as well as a representative on the Board of Local Citizens to assist the Department of Labor in connection with girls employed in the city who were brought here from Europe.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following the reading of reports, election of officers resulted in Mrs. Munthe being returned for a second term as Municipal Regent with the following slate of officers:

Honorary Regent—Mrs. D. C. Stuart.
Honorary First Vice-Regent—Mrs. S. V. Cox
First Vice - Regent—Mrs. C. Ham.
Second Vice - Regent—Mrs. J. Stewart.
Secretary—Mrs. T. Fraser.
Assistant Secretary—Mrs. Doug. Stewart.
Treasurer—Mrs. J. -.. Teng.
Echoes Secretary—Mrs. E. Barton.
Educational Secretary—Mrs. G. R. S. Blakaby.
Organizing Secretary—Mrs. S. A. Keilback.
Standard Bearer—Mrs. S. V. Cox.

Due to the failure of films on the King and Queen's recent tour and the Royal Wedding to reach the city, L. A. N. Potterton loaned two of his reels for showing. Another film on the development and manufacture of the pipe organ through the years was shown. Both were much enjoyed by the members during intermission in the meeting.

Following the meeting delicious refreshments were served and a social hour spent.

CIVIL SERVANTS TO KEEP RIGHTS

OTTAWA — Newfoundland civil servants who join the public service of Canada on union between the two countries will continue in employment without reduction in salary, and with no loss of pension rights.

AIR PASSENGERS

To Vancouver—E. T. Applewhaite.
To Sandspit—J. C. Howes.
From Vancouver—K. Smedley, T. Paulson, Mrs. T. Boulter.
From Sandspit—E. Bernard.

50,000TH NEW CANADIAN— Eight-year-old Ausma Levalds, 50,000 displaced person to arrive in Canada, receives a doll from Mayor J. E. (Gee) Ahern of Halifax at pier-side immigration barracks. Ausma will make her home at New Hamburg, Ont. Her 1,200 fellow passengers on the liner Samaria were nearly all seasick during the rough crossing. (C. P. Photo)

LETTERBOX

ALD. BLACK'S POSITION

Editor, Daily News:

May I request the privilege of using your columns to point out that the statement in your issue of Tuesday, March 1 attributed to me which reads: "Alderman Black said that he was not against the Power Commission taking over"—is entirely in error. This statement should have read "I am not against the motion now introduced regarding the Power Commission being considered at the proper time but, in view of the fact that the franchise does not expire until March, 1954, it is premature for this council to deal with the question which rightfully is the privilege of the council and taxpayers in 1953 and 1954."

Further may I state that I mentioned. "Believing that the future growth of this city is now assured, and having assisted through its connection in bringing this about, the Northern B.C. Power Company has for the last year and a half explored the possibilities of future power development but threats of expropriation or uncertainty of tenure are definitely not conducive to encouraging further capital investment by private enterprise in the locality or province."

All the abbreviated statements recorded in your paper on the above subject presumably supposed to have been presented by myself to the city council, are inaccurately recorded and I consider it would have been much better to have omitted any reference to them entirely rather than give such a garbled and distorted picture to the public.

I trust that you will give this letter equal publicity and thank you for the courtesy extended.

T. B. BLACK,
General Manager,
Northern B.C. Power Co. Ltd

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CO-OP NAMES NEW DIRECTORS

More than 100 members of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative elected four directors to serve for three-year terms at Tuesday's session of the organization's annual meeting and heard reports of affiliated co-operative organizations. The meetings are being held at the Oddfellows' Hall.

Anton Martinusen, who last year served as chairman of the board of directors, was re-elected to the board along with Bernhof Pederson, John Davidson and Chris Berg. They were elected from a slate of 12 who were proposed for election.

The three retiring directors are Jacob Furunes, Harold Helland and Carl Giske.

Reports from United Fishermen's Co-operative of Vancouver were delivered by O. E. Hansen and C. McKee and from the Kyuquot Trollers' Co-operative by John Donaldson and Sig Sekkmo. D. W. Bentley gave a summary of activities of the B.C. Co-operative Wholesale Society and George Viereck outlined the year's progress of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Credit Union.

The Vancouver firm of Weeden and Everett were re-appointed as official auditors while Henry Jackson of Prince Rupert was elected member-elect for the three-year period. He replaces Helmer Mork.

Final sessions of the annual meeting continued this morning and afternoon.

Some damage was done to a truck owned by George Dybhavn when it went over an embankment at the corner of Allin and Graham Avenues last night. The vehicle came to rest againt a growth of trees about 10 feet below the street level.

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When considering your donation, remember that this year the Canadian Red Cross needs 5 Million Dollars—40% more than the previous appeal.

YOU can save his life

In a far, northern settlement, a man meets with a serious accident. Somewhere else in Canada's hinterland, a woman is about to give birth to a baby. Were it not for the Red Cross, these, and scores of other sick and injured people, would be without medical or hospital care.

But the 75 Red Cross Outpost Hospitals are ever ready to serve isolated settlers. Last year over 70,000 patients received treatment through these hospitals.

This is part of the work YOUR Red Cross is carrying on. You are asked to help save lives on these lonely frontiers, to provide assistance to crippled veterans, to send relief wherever disaster strikes, to support the Red Cross *Free* Blood Transfusion Service, to extend help to suffering humanity everywhere.

The Red Cross work being carried on in a thousand ways is made possible by you and thousands of other Canadians. Give willingly, generously. Give now!

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