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Tactics of Opposition

THE DUTIES of the Opposition in our political system have become so identified with party strategy that it has been easy to forget that this is not the purpose of opposition. The purpose of opposition in our party system is as definite a part of government as the government itself. It is the safety valve of the system. Its duty is the constructive consideration of government actions that may be too close to the thinking of officials to be assessed disinterestedly. Criticism may be a part of opposition tactics, of course, but it is not the only or even the essential part. An opposition that comes to power does so, not because it has harried and bedevilled the existing government, but because the people have come to recognize that it has thought more soundly and constructively on essential issues than has the majority party.

What brought this to mind was a recent and striking instance of what we believe is the proper service of opposition. John Diefenbaker, opposition member from Lake Centre, has carried on a long and useful campaign against an abuse of government—rule by Order-in-Council, a useful emergency practice. Recently Mr. Diefenbaker brought the long controversy a step nearer a successful close when he argued for a parliamentary committee to consider the subject. Mr. Diefenbaker was battling not for a party but for the people—to get government back into parliament.

The all too general course of government—is to deny a disadvantage or to defend it. The Prime Minister did neither. He saw fit to accept an opposition suggestion as a proper, reasonable and helpful contribution to sound government. He tabled figures showing the basis of the argument—4,872 Orders-in-Council passed between Oct. 1, 1948 and June 30, 1949 and 6,589 Treasury Board Minutes that are purely administrative. Mr. St. Laurent accepted this as a reasonable basis for discussion and promised to study Mr. Diefenbaker's suggestion carefully before parliament meets in 1950.

Quite apart from the fact that such a committee of the House would restore to parliament its right to consider and control the executive acts of its ministers and so give back authority to the people, this incident is significant for another reason. It shows opposition and government forces acting together to see that the citizen retains the right to be the vital centre of government. That and not partisan loyalty is the purpose of our party system.

Good Attendance At Church Bazaar

Ladies of First Presbyterian Church of Prince Rupert held a successful fall bazaar in the church hall last Thursday afternoon. Six booths were in operation selling fancy work, plain sewing, white elephants, woolens, a fish pond and home cooking. They were operated by Mrs. W. W. Bowes, Mrs. D. Kristman, Mrs. Nell McLean, Mrs. Sid

Elkins, Mrs. R. L. Eby, Mrs. E. F. Saunders, Mrs. C. H. Halliday, Mrs. M. J. Keays, Mrs. W. Spark and Mrs. H. Calderwood and the C.G.I.T. girls.

Pourers were Mrs. J. Currie and Mrs. J. Simpson and servitors Mrs. W. Wilson Murray, Mrs. J. Delorme, Mrs. R. Strachan and Mrs. S. J. Hunter. In the kitchen were Mrs. E. J. Smith, Mrs. J. Lee and Mrs. W. Martin. Mrs. J. A. Teng was cashier. Mrs. C. G. Ham, president of the Ladies' Aid, received the guests.

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

There shouldn't be any room for argument about the necessity of adequate Canadian defence when it is recalled that barely eight years ago thirteen merchant ships were sunk and between two and three hundred lives lost in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The job was performed by a German submarine. Yet there can be found in Canada people who can be more eloquent over fights that happened centuries ago, than what happened in their own front yard, only yesterday.

Mid-Atlantic, last Wednesday, had what has been described as a "good roll on." That could mean more than what the average landsman imagines. If, from a stout deck, he views the immensity of shoreless sea and feels the slow rise and fall of a great steamship, his respect for blue water, with no dim horizon of land, is considerably heightened. Of course, there was "a roll on." But to transfer from their slowly sinking raft, the eighteen survivors of the B-29, called for no small degree of judgment and seamanship on the part of officers and men of the Canadian destroyer Haida.

Quite a human interest yarn that James Thomson missing will story from Vancouver. By this time practically everyone has read it. An aged pioneer businessman with no home ties, died leaving an estate worth almost a million. After an eleven months' search, the will was found in a real estate office. Some of those sharing in the property do not need the money but there are scores of others who would evidently welcome it. Newspaper portraits show them looking happy—if not overjoyed. Thomson's judgment does not appear to have been hasty or that he lacked full knowledge of those he had in mind. Friends, old timers, employees all came within range of his beneficence. A financial "lift," especially to those approaching their twilight years, rarely comes amiss. A woman, smiling from the front page of a daily describes her legacy as "a godsend."

Most people today, appear unable to find the low cost of anything. The preference is discussion of the high cost of living. Sometimes there is the naive wonder at the difficulties and anxieties so many are eternally

worrying over. It might be partly explained by reflecting that eight years of unbroken wars in this age of marvels for good or evil is something we cannot commit and get away with. There is always the price, and the older one becomes the clearer it's seen.

The cost of a cup of coffee in the United States is said to have jumped from five to ten cents, the reason being comparative scarcity. Yet it's only a few years ago the coffee surplus in Brazil was overwhelming. Who can explain this fragrant little trade note? There must be an explanation. Betcha a Commie can!

We often wonder how we managed to survive all the home remedies given us for a cold when we were kids, comments the Juneau Empire. Why wonder, brother! Colds are the same remedies are largely the same (if not more numerous) then and now. There's precious little difference. Prince Rupert has been gargling and feeling sorry for herself most of a week. After all, a cold is a cold, and once it lands your number, about all one can do is sigh "O.K." and carry on.

Miss Margaret Ross, R.N., former matron of the Outpost Hospital at Terrace and now at the Miller Bay hospital, paid a brief visit to Terrace recently.

LETTERBOX

RESPECTS TO GEOLOGISTS

Editor, Daily News:
Never in my life did I like to listen to a wail of woe from a pessimist. The gloomiest I have read in a long time was the address delivered by Mr. Moore before the Junior Chamber of Commerce on prospecting for minerals.

I have just one question to ask Mr. Moore. The balance will be addressed to the readers of the Daily News.

Will Mr. Moore name one mine in British Columbia that was discovered, staked and recorded by a person bearing the title of a geologist; those boys who are supposed to understand both the age of rock and the rock of ages.

The following questions are directed to the readers of the Daily News to ponder:

1. What relationship had the

big mining and smelting combine in the initial development of the following named mines of Northern British Columbia? X. R. Rogers and associates first proved the ore body at Hidden Creek, afterwards called Anyox. R. K. Neill and associates opened the Premier after several turn-downs by graduates in geology. The late Pat Daly was the saviour of Premier. The Dolly Varden and Torbrit mines at Alice Arm have the same history, so has the Silver Standard at Hazelton. Those properties were all developed and brought into production not through the direction of eminent geologists but in spite of them.

Mr. Editor, the world is gloomy enough without enmeshing it in a geological shroud. We are not all stockholders in the big \$54,000,000 melon.

GEORGE B. CASEY

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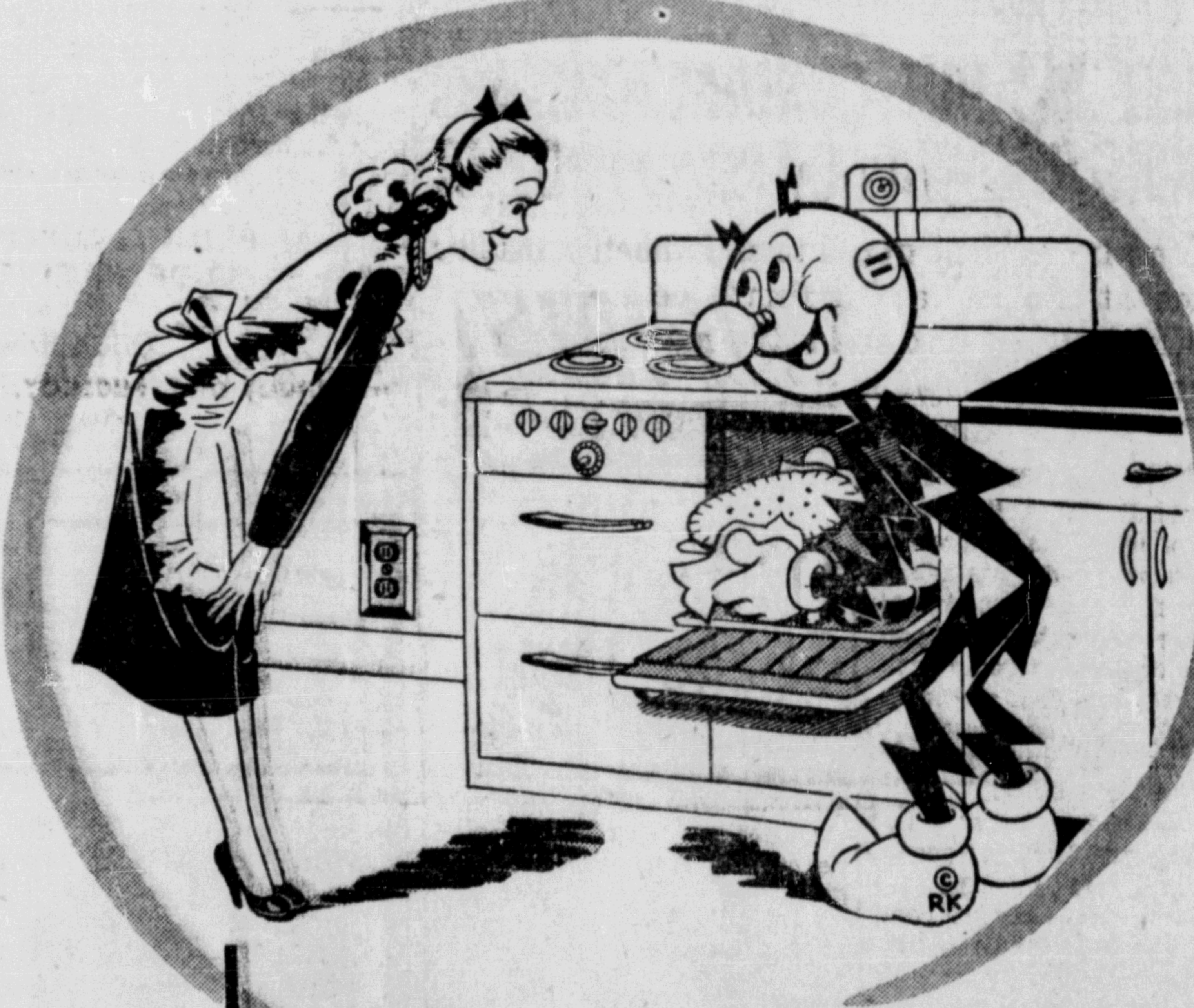
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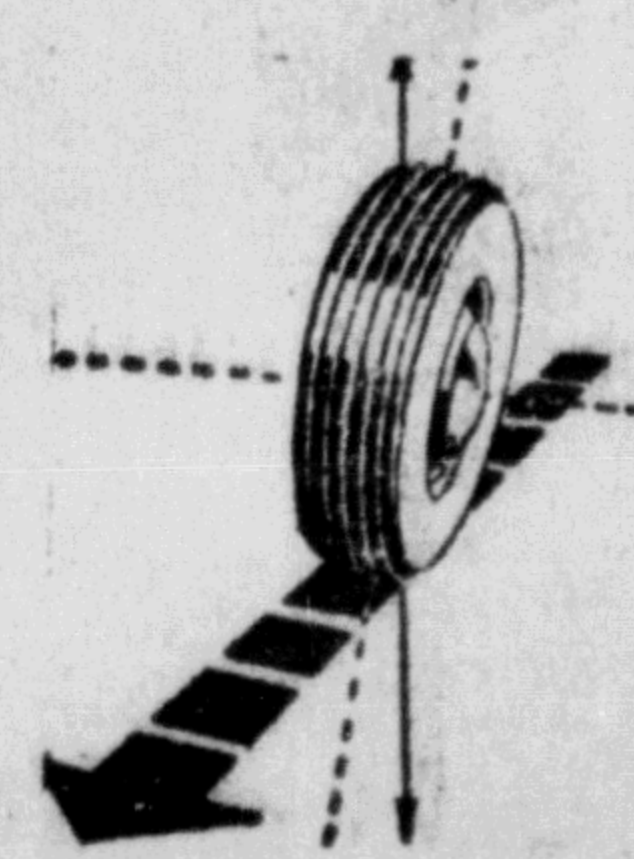
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