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## Life is Safer

LIFE is much safer in today's era of airplanes and speeding motor cars than it was some four decades ago when the country was emerging from the horse-and-buggy age, the statisticians of a life insurance company report.

As evidence it is pointed out that during the period of 1911-1915 deaths from accidents were occurring at the age-adjusted rate of 81 per 100,000, whereas in 1946-1948 the incidence was only a little more than half as frequent—43 per 100,000.

Only two major classifications of fatal accidents have shown an increase among the insured—automobile mishaps, which are more than 3½ times as frequent, and deaths in burning buildings and other fires, which have increased in frequency by 50 per cent. Drownings have declined 57 per cent and fatal falls by 60 per cent. Fatalities due to burns and scalds are only about one-fifth as frequent.

The improvement in the accident fatality record is due in part, according to the statisticians, to the modernization of homes, the introduction of new industrial products to supplant old ones, changes in industrial methods, and shifts in means of transportation, with the over-all result that many former accident hazards have been eliminated, although some new ones have come into being. Safety engineering and safety education also are considered to have played important parts.

"The organized safety movement got its start in industry around 1911," the statisticians note. "Since then it has broadened to cover all phases of highway and home safety. Active support should be given to organizations devoting their time and energy to protect life and limb."

## CANADIAN COASTGUARD

THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION of the Dominion government to expand its sea rescue services on the two coasts has been received with general approbation and nowhere with more gratification and approval than at Prince Rupert. The Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce and the Daily News have long advocated the need for such a service. Incidents occurring day after day have illustrated that need.

The Victoria Times comments editorially as follows:

While spokesmen have indicated that there is little likelihood "at present" of establishing a Coast Guard similar to that of the United States, the arrangements suggested for closer co-operation between vessels in the government service, coupled with the facilities of the three defence forces and R. C. M. P. promises a reasonably good stand-by. While the popular concept of the most effective rescue service is one patterned on the excellent United States system, it is quite conceivable that Canadian needs might be better served by a modification of the American type. A rescue service, like a fire department, is not in continual use. But when it is needed, it is needed urgently. In view of the fact that many government vessels now ply the coast on routine duties connected with fisheries and light-house requirements, it seems logical to assume that they might be employed immediately a call is sounded.

With the technical requirements of such craft we are not familiar. To a layman, however, it would appear that relatively minor equipment might be installed on them to assist in the discharge of life-saving duties. Adequate towing facilities might be listed as an example.

Whatever action Ottawa may take to improve facilities on Canada's coasts, its efforts along this line should stimulate enthusiastic support. In British Columbia, apart from non-official groups which are on record in favor of more efficient protective service, all parties represented in the Legislature have endorsed the idea.

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BONNIE PRINCE "TAKEN FOR A RIDE"—Londoners, enjoying the beautiful sunshine in Greek Park recently, had opportunity of seeing Prince Charles, youngest member of the Royal family, infant son of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. St. Laurent, at left, receives an honorary degree during the 125th prince will be a year old this month.

## ALUMINUM CO. (Continued from Page 1)

Alean, who recently flew over the area, said that no definite decision on the choice of a location will be made for at least a year.

After that, it probably will be a decade before there are any "spectacular developments." It might be between 10 and 20 years before production of aluminum begins.

While the Nechako damsite will be the eastern key to the project, the western key will be a 10-mile tunnel to carry water from Tahtsa Lake to the Kemano River 2,400 feet below or near tidewater. Here lies a potential 1,500,000 horsepower of electrical energy.

To provide a backlog of water, the Nechako dam would raise the level of Naalkuz Lake 171 feet, Ootsa Lake 140 feet, Whitesail Lake 121 feet and Tahtsa Lake 32 feet.

On the south fork of the circuitous chain of lakes, Eucchu Lake would be raised 169 feet and Tetachuck Lake 20 feet. Eutsuk Lake, one of the largest in the chain would remain at its present level if the Nechako dam is constructed.

## KITIMAAT ADEQUATE

Kitimaat is described as the only adequate area where a townsite could be built in the proposed Nechako River set-up. Available are adequate domestic water supplies as well as suitability for deep-sea shipping.

Influx of other industries to absorb surplus power is anticipated if the project continues to completion. Mr. Dubose said in a Vancouver interview. Of the 1,500,000 horsepower developed, the company would require about two-thirds, leaving the rest available for other industries.

Professor Karl Terzaghi, geologist and expert on soil mechanics from Harvard University, who has been retained as a consultant on foundation expiratory work says that the hydro development of the site being investigated are the greatest in the world. The Nechako dam, he said, would create the longest hydro reservoir in the world.



BUSY ASSISTANT — George James McIlraith is an energetic Ottawa lawyer who needs every bit of his energy in his job as parliamentary assistant to one of the busiest federal cabinet ministers, Trade Minister Howe. Mr. McIlraith, who has represented Ottawa West in the Commons since 1940, became Mr. Howe's assistant in 1945 when the trade minister held the reconstruction and supply portfolio. Born July 29, 1908 at Lanark, Ont., Mr. McIlraith represents a riding composed largely of civil servants.

Residents of the whole province, and particularly those of central British Columbia who have waited more than a generation for the natural wealth of their territory to be discovered by capital, are anxiously watching the slow progress.

It will, they know, be the right answer to many of the problems of the future.

## Ray Reflects . . . . . . and Reminisces

The reality of a prosperous British Empire is felt all over the earth. There may be an object lesson next year where Canada is concerned. Sixty million dollars worth of eggs, bacon and newsprint to stay unsold is a jolt. Being financially short is nuisance for individual or nation.

Rent control is fading out. Tenants will pay higher costs. That much can be taken for granted. And of course, there is something to be said for both sides of the picture. No one wishes to pay the major part of his salary for shelter. Every landlord has to think about maintenance, upkeep, insurance, and several other little responsibilities that insist on being recognized.

## Communication Costs Are Cut

Canada Enters Into New International Agreement  
OTTAWA (P)—Canada is entering into an international agreement designed to simplify communications traffic and sharply reduce the full rate charged for sending overseas cables and telegrams.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport disclosed that Canada is one of sixty-eight countries expected to ratify the agreement. It will cut by twenty-five per cent full rates charges on overseas cables.

Retired mounties, some of whom are receiving less than old age pensioners, are trying to have an increase granted. But to suggest that this should be easy does not mean it will, despite the fact that for more than seventy years they have been giving Canada an A-1 service and an enduring fame.

## TRAIN SCHEDULE

For the East—  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
8:00 p.m.  
From the East—  
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