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Good Government--or Bad

HOW OFTEN have we heard it said that every nation gets the sort of government it deserves?

It's a smart phrase and like many smart phrases it is only partially true. There are people who have had better governments—and worse—than they have deserved. But the seed of truth is there. The measure of our interest in our own affairs is the measure of our achievements as a nation.

Canada has rarely had the sort of bad government that challenges radical action. It has been easy for us to be complaisant. At intervals we go importantly to the polls to register the results of our rather haphazard thinking and to take a stand on issues that, too often, we only dimly understand. If this attitude is challenged we counter with the well-worn argument that there isn't much we could do about it anyway.

There are things we can do about it. If that is not so then democracy is done. We can inform ourselves. We can get over accepting whatever views are placed before us, and begin to assess what they mean, where they lead, and what they might do to the sort of life we wish to lead. Bad governments live and flourish when people accept ideas without understanding them. They disappear, or become good governments when a public conscience makes itself felt. To leave our thinking to those with more political acumen is not democracy at all. We need not fear opinions no matter what they may be. The folly in them will die of its own poison and the wisdom survive. That is the glory of democracy.

We must have more than opinions. There is nothing honest in an opinion if its holder hasn't weighed all the evidence and thought it out to an informed conclusion. To believe that a planned economy is vital to us on someone's say so, or to accept free enterprise because it is a habit, it not good citizenship. The soundness of any sound cause can be proved by anyone with an open mind. If he is to be a factor in his country's good, no citizen can offer less. The standards of intelligence and honesty and fairness that a man demands in his private life may not be qualified as he moves into groups.

The essentials of good government then are as simple as a copy-book maxim. Be informed. Be discriminating. Be active. Be honest. Nothing there beyond the reach of the humblest citizen. Yet there is the essence. No intelligent, thoughtful, politically active people ever get bad government.

TALKS, DEBATES AT P.-T. MEETING

Interesting Program at
Borden Street School

A large attendance at last evening's meeting of the Borden Street School Parent-Teachers Association enjoyed a varied and interesting program with guest speakers including Don Forward, Civic Centre director, and H. T. Lock, fire chief.

Mr. Forward referred to the always very complimentary comments of visitors from all parts of the world on the splendid facilities in the local Civic Centre building. It was being used by so many organizations that its capacity was being taxed to the utmost. It provided entertainment and relaxation for all age groups without being in competition with any organization. The membership drive this

Trafalgar Day

TODAY is the 143rd anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. The swift development of air power, while it has made a profound change in naval tactics and engagements and in some degree in ship designing and construction, by no means suggests that supremacy on the sea is any the less important.

Cromwell is credited with having originated the saying "trust in God and keep your powder dry" and that is precisely what Great Britain and certain other united nations are doing today. Interpreted, in the light of the international situation national defence is a paramount consideration, and in this, it may be safely assumed that naval might maintains the same significance it always has.

year was far ahead of last year's at the same date, the total number now being 850 compared with last year's total of 506 at the corresponding date.

The talk by Fire Chief Lock was of unusually interesting and informative nature. He referred to the need from the dawn of time by mankind of heat. At one time it was man's most cherished possession. Later it had to be controlled and its control was now a major problem. The start and growth of fire insurance was explained. The superiority of regulations regarding building construction and fire responsibility in Europe as compared with America was impressive. "Fire insurance is a tax," said Mr. Lock, "and the sooner people realize this the sooner will they insist on more stringent building restrictions." The dependence of an adequate water supply was stressed.

Previous to the talks the audience had been impressed by two debates in which pupils of Grade Six took part. In the first Jacquelyn Moore and Becky Morgan took the affirmative against Mary Lou Lunn and Norma MacKenzie on the topic: "Resolved that Country Life is More Desirable than City Life." In the second debate Robert Pederson and Leonard Griffiths

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Tenders for School Buildings
Sealed Tenders, endorsed "Tender for School Buildings" will be received by the undersigned up to and including November 6th, 1948, 8:00 p.m., for the erection and completion of the following schools:
1. Two-room school at Houston, B.C.
2. Three-room school at Telkwa, B.C.
3. Three-room annex to High School at Smithers, B.C.
Tenders shall not include cement foundation work of Houston and Telkwa schools.
Plans, specifications and form of tenders may be obtained from the School Board office in Smithers, B.C. on payment of a deposit of \$25.00, which amount will be refunded on return of plans in good condition.
A certified cheque equal to 10% of tender and payable to the Board of School Trustees must accompany the bid, as surety of good faith.
The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
A. Muheim, Sec. Treasurer,
Board of Trustees,
School District No. 54
Smithers, B.C.
October 16, 1948. (258)

took the affirmative against Eddie Findlay and Jimmy Saville on the resolution that "Airplanes Are More Useful Than Trains." J. S. Wilson, who acted as chairman, explained that debating was part of the ordinary course of studies in English language. He pointed out how the debates were ordinarily judged. The presentations made by each speaker, their statements and proofs of same, the research done in obtaining facts from local firms and agencies, the delivery, and the rebuttals were greatly appreciated by the audience whose attention was held at all times by the speakers. The rounds of applause that greeted the speakers were genuine proof of the appreciation.

The business meeting, over which the president, Mrs. H. C. Flood, presided, included reports from Mrs. D. Parent on the Film Council; Mrs. Crawford Moore, treasurer; Mrs. Wm. McLeod, representative to the P.-T.A. Council; Mrs. Lineham, literature convener, and S. A. Cheeseman, membership.

There are 115 paid-up members. The prize for the division obtaining the greatest number

Capt. Fitzsimmons, Ex-M.L.A., Passes

REVELSTOKE — Capt. James Fitzsimmons, veteran shipmaster of southern interior lakes and rivers, died here yesterday at the age of 65.

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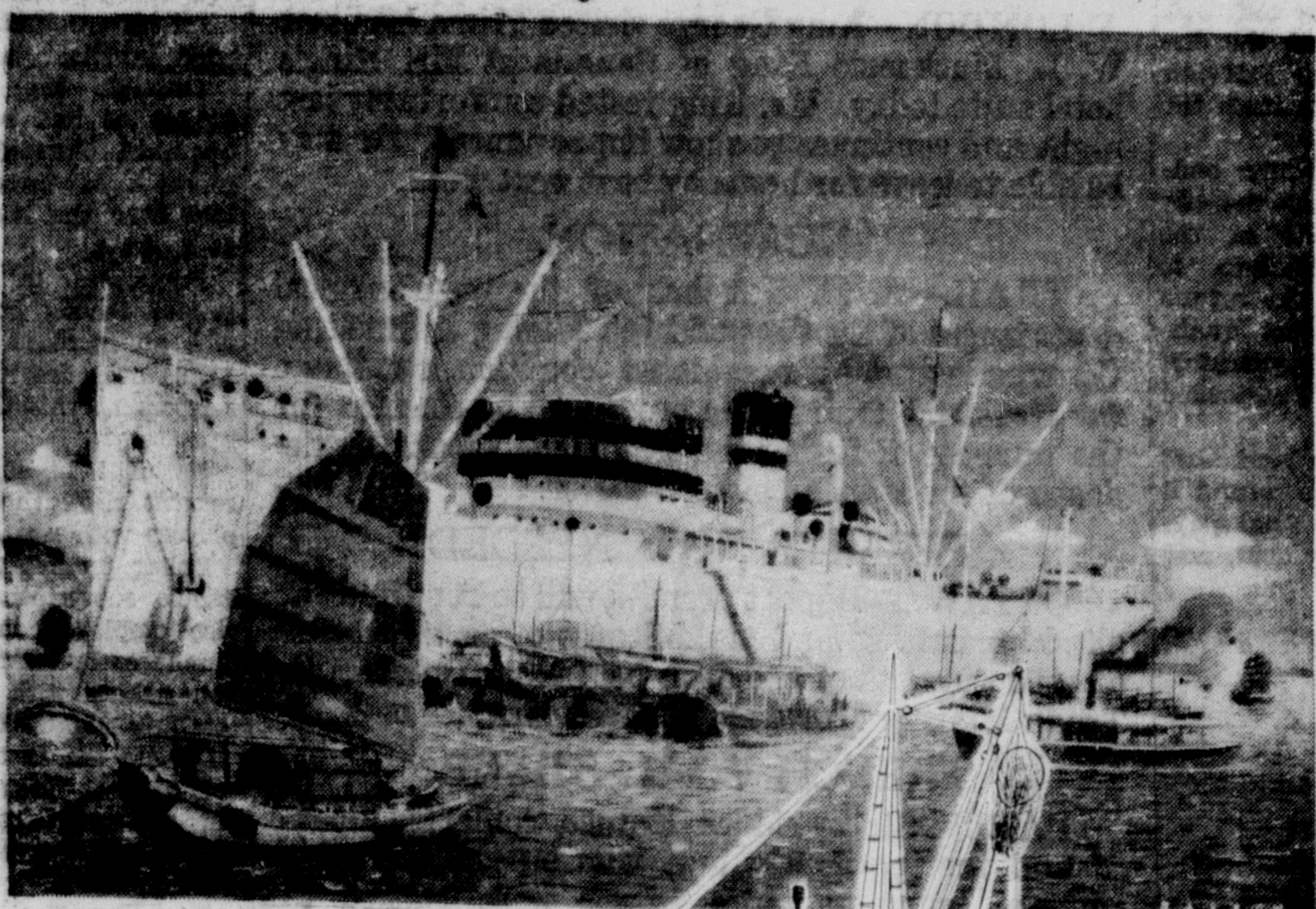
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