

Why Not Plebiscite

QUESTION of whether cocktail bars should be permitted in British Columbia as they are in Ontario and Quebec is a live and controversial issue. The Attorney General has announced that, in view of a large measure of expressed opposition, nothing will be done about legalizing the dispensing of liquor in this manner this year or possibly for some years to come. To many this decision by the government will be surprising. To others it will not be satisfactory. Many of the people who had been disposed to cocktail bars felt it might tend to a discontinuation of furtive drinking in public places or of more or less widespread drinking in hotel rooms and such places. It has been suggested, in fact, that permissibility of drinking in the open might even lead to moderation.

Possibly the fairest way of settling the question would be to have a plebiscite. It would also be the easiest way for the government on a question, that, no matter which way it decided, would meet with disapproval and vocal dissatisfaction.

SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTION

PRIME MINISTER D. F. MALAN of the Union of South Africa has had his policy of "apartheid" (segregation) approved in this week's provincial election. Such segregation, Malan's government said, could alone save the country's 2,500,000 whites from submersion by its 9,000,000 African and colored people.

On its assumption of power last year after defeating Jan Christian Smuts' United Africa party by a narrow margin in the general election, the Malan government moved to give effect to its promises about segregation. Its immediate aim was to abolish the representation of Africans in the House and to remove half-caste voters from the common roll.

In view of the narrow margin of the government in the national parliament, it was decided to seek a mandate in the provincial elections. The majority for the Malan government was not large but it will, doubtless, be accepted as a mandate on the segregation policy.

PRINCE RUPERT AND ALASKA

WHEN the ocean terminus of a transcontinental railway is so close to another country, as Prince Rupert is to Alaska, most people would think, as time went on, that business relations between the two would show some signs of substantial growth. Convenience and costs should be among the determining factors.

When the Jones Bill, enacted nearly thirty years ago, began to function, there was but little surprise. It was too much to expect, from the Canadian standpoint, that the United States would be wholly indifferent to the significance of the new northern line. Certain interests were bound to be protected, and they undoubtedly were, even though the Prince Rupert railway, with its unanswerable advantage, had friends both in Alaska and United States proper.

But the time has now come for the rescinding of the Act. In thirty years, undreamed of changes in the general world situation are being seen. In international affairs, nations are becoming more united in principles and purposes, where hitherto nationalism was more pronounced. The tendency in 1949, with the shadow of a single great power a source of uncertainty, is to maintain unity in following a common policy and the making of concessions which liberalize rather than restrict.

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Waterfront -- Whiffs

Halibut Commission Decision is Disappointing

—Trollers and Halibutters Ready

Announcement that their proposal for a split halibut season has been turned down by the International Fisheries Commission was received with considerable gloom this week by Prince Rupert halibut men. The decision, they feel, is not, as stated, based on recommendations of the Commission's scientific staff but actually contrary to it.

Many fishermen feel that the real reason that the proposal, favored by a majority of the fishermen, was turned down was that it was not supported unanimously by all groups. Two Alaska ports, Juneau and Petersburg, opposed it, thus leaving the Commission to loophole to justify inaction.

"It's going to make it tougher than ever for us to get a livelihood," said one veteran halibut boat owner. "In this year's scramble we may manage to get a couple of trips."

Like all Prince Rupert halibut fishermen and the majority of those of Vancouver and Seattle, he saw division of the Area Two season into two parts as an instrument by which the 24,500,000 pound quota could be caught in a reasonable period during the summer, instead of in a mad rush during the month of May.

George Anderson, secretary of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, expressed keen disappointment at the refusal but felt that, in spite of it, some regulation is inevitable if the industry is to attain stability.

"The next move is still up to the Commission," he said. "We put a sound proposal into their lap and they threw it out. Nothing is solved yet."

Mr. Anderson felt that failure of the fishermen in all halibut ports to present a solid front in favor of the proposal allowed the Commission an opportunity to by-pass it.

Many feel that any argument that division of the season will cause over-fishing of any one

part of the banks or any particular stock of halibut is not valid. The commission's scientific staff already has shown that under conditions which have prevailed in the last few years, certain parts of Area Two have been overfished and that young stock has disappeared at an alarming rate.

Fishermen say that this is caused by the fact that they fish the grounds in the spring each year, a time when the young stock is there. Later in the season, populations of older fish enter the grounds, but because the season is closed, they are protected.

Despite the Commission's denial of a split season, the matter is not closed permanently. Since the split season is out, it appears that the Vancouver Deep Sea Fishermen's Union is proposing that the old voluntary curtailment plan be revived but this is receiving a cold reception here. This is the system also favored by Alaskan halibut men. Abuses of the system in the period when it was last tried prior to 1941 have convinced the local fleet that it will be of little value, either to those who abide by it or to the industry as a whole.

Scores of fishing boats, trollers and halibut vessels are now being prepared for the coming season. The halibut season will open May 1 after an 11-month closure in Area Two and trolling probably will start early in April, depending on the weather. At present, the main work is being done on engines and hulls. In the case of halibut boats, gear will be readied during April. No trollers are on the grounds in this district yet although a few hand trollers in rowboats have caught the odd spring salmon, mostly in the harbor near Tucks inlet.

The herring season in the northern sub-district of fisheries district Two was closed by regulation at midnight, Thursday, an event that had little meaning

BRIDGE SESSIONS ARE NEARING END

Bridge classes and tournaments which have been conducted throughout the past winter at the Civic Centre by Garnet Hull are now nearing conclusion and will wind up on April 15 when the 12 top scorers from the series of tournaments will play-off for season awards.

Classes this winter have attracted much interest and have also proven popular. At the last one there were seven tables and the prize winners were Mrs. George Murray for the ladies and L. Christopherson for the men.

Straight instruction sessions have now ended and the next few classes will be devoted to reviewing.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Hall of Butedale are returning down the coast on the Coquitlam tomorrow night after a week's visit to the city.

since nobody was fishing herring in the region anyway. The season's catch in the area north of Wright Sound, which constitutes the sub-district, was 17,800 tons, practically all of which was caught in Edge Pass during February. The fleet remained there only 10 days before moving south.

Herring catch for the whole of the northern district—from Cape Caution north—was 60,682 tons since the season opened last July. Up to the early part of this year, the catch was negligible, being made up of only occasional sets from local populations. The bulk of it was caught during the winter.

The herring season on the Queen Charlottes remains open but there have been no reports of anything being caught, despite the fact that a couple of boats went over a week ago to prospect.

Six draggers are scrap fishing in Hecate Straits and delivering fair catches here. However, there is not enough coming in to give any great amount of employment on the waterfront.

Capt. Alf Aspinall was in command of the Union steamer Coquitlam when she docked here at 1 o'clock Friday afternoon or her weekly trip from Vancouver. He replaces Capt. Harry McLean who is now on holidays. Capt. Aspinall is well known in this port as former first officer and master of the old Cassiar which used to ply between Prince Rupert, Vancouver and the Queen Charlottes. He succeeded Capt. Alex McLennan on the Coquitlam last fall and lately has been on vacation. This week, the Coquitlam is calling at the south Islands and is due back here Sunday to sail at 10 p.m. for Butedale, Namu, Westview and Vancouver.

Services in the Church

SATURDAY SERMON

THE CHURCH
(REV. GEORGE E. SENDALL)
"And the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."—Mt. 16:18.

The church has ever suffered violence, when not at the hands of her enemies then at the misrepresentation and distortion of her friends. The tendency toward corruption, characteristic of all human institutions, overtakes the assembly of the faithful whenever the original drive and vision of the pure in

heart is turned aside. The church then becomes not so much a vehicle of the good Word of God and the harbinger of the Glad Tidings of the Kingdom of Heaven as an organization of humans, subject to their corruption.

The prophet Ezekiel saw such a process overtake the worship of God prior to the exile of the Jews to Babylon. "And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east, and they worshipped the sun toward the east." (Ez. 8:16.) Here were men dedicated to the service of God yet they turned their backs upon the Holy Place and worshipped nature. So many people are doing just that very thing today. They worship, yes, but they worship the sun, and the hills and the woods and the streams, turning their backs upon the only true source of eternal light and salvation. Such are apostate, deliberately substituting the worship of the Creator for the created. We have the revelation of God in His Son, our Saviour mediated through the church and the sacraments. The Bible is our source book of the knowledge of God. Are we justified in turning away to the vaguely apprehended voice of nature?

Despite her faults the church is the assembly of the saints, the body of Christ. True it is that ravenous wolves enter the fold of God and wreak havoc in the church. True it is that the children of darkness are found in the same assembly with the children of light. But did not Jesus say "not everyone that calleth me Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven." And in the parable of the tares we are given to understand that there will be false Christians mixed along with the true. "And by their works ye shall know them."

Many sincere people turn away from the church in disgust because of this unfortunate fact. Yet the church will hardly be any better if it is abandoned because of hypocrisy in her ranks. In any case a hypocrite is too small a thing to hide behind! Our excuse for not attending church must be bigger than that.

The true church is made up of sincere believers in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and of her ultimate success there is no doubt. It is composed of "overcomers" as St. John says of those passing through great tribulation "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." (Rev. 12:11.)

Mrs. S. Tleken, who arrived in the city at the first of the week from Whitehorse, will sail tomorrow night on the Coquitlam for Westview.

DIRECTORY

Services in all churches at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday School at 12:15 except as shown.

ANGELICAN CATHEDRAL
4th Ave. W. at Dunsmuir St.
Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 2:00 p.m.
Canon Basil S. Procter, B.A., B.D.
Rector: (Blue 733)

FIRST BAPTIST
5th Ave. E. at Young St.
Minister: Rev. Fred Antrobus
(Green 812)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
4th Avenue East
Minister: Rev. George E. Sendall
(Green 982)

FIRST UNITED
626 6th Ave. West
Minister: R. A. Wilson, M.A.
(Green 613)

FULL GOSPEL TABERNACLE
221 6th Ave. West
Pastor: Paul A. Barber
(Green 620)

SALVATION ARMY
Prayer Street
C.O.: Major W. Yurgensen
Directory Class 2:30 p.m.
Sunday School 3:00 p.m.
(Black 269)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
5th Ave. at McBride St.
Pastor: E. Solland
(Black 610)

ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN
Scot Cove
Archdeacon E. Hottel
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m.
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(Classes at
7:30 p.m.)
Speaker: G.A.
Subject: "The
There are
Come and
Wed. 8:30
Wed. 8 p.m.
Thurs. 7:30
WE BELIEVE
THE FIDELITY

First Presb
Fourth St.
Minister: Rev.
Director of
SUNDAY
11:00—
Guest Soloist
The Lord
12:15—
7:30—
Anthems
My Soul
Guest Soloist
How Low
God.
Mon. 8 p.m.

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