Thursday, March 10, 1949

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No Air Field Here?

TVEN IF IT DOES COST a million and a quarter dollars to establish an air strip for Prince Rupert, and we are not satisfied that it will in view of what we have been told by the experts of the Canadian Pacific Airlines who estimate it at much less, is that any reason why Prince Rupert should be the only city of comparable size and importance in Canada that has no facilities for handling of land planes?

Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce has been told by the Minister of Transport that the time taken to get from Prince Rupert to Tugwell Island will cut down on the saving of time by flying from Prince Rupert to Vancouver. If that is the case, what about the time that is required to travel by motor from Victoria to the air depot at Patricia Bay? Then another thing the Department mentions is the unsheltered waters between Prince Rupert and Tugwell Island which is something to smile about. And it is also suggested that due to weather conditions it might be frequently impossible to use Tugwell Island. As far as commercial air service is concerned, it would be better anyway to be stranded at nearby Tugwell Island than at Sandspit which, during the winter, is an all too frequent cause of inconvenience and irritation.

We do not think the Department of Transport has made out a very good case against a landing field for Prince Rupert and we should not be satisfied with allowing the matter to be dismissed like

CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

CETTLERS in Central British Columbia who I have been there long enough to appraise the country and its possibilities thoroughly are finding they made no mistake in deciding to come north. It meant plenty of hard work to become established. Toil was part of the bargain. But the more they gave of honest effort, coupled with judgment and discernment, the greater the reward. Some may have moved away or become too easily discouraged, being unfitted for that kind of life. Accustomed to cities, living anywhere else would result for some in discontent.

But to those who, naturally, are attracted to the soil and all it implies, and there are still quite a number left, northern and central British Columbia offers congenial opportunity. No country is perfect. Cost of production, markets and marketing, transportation, labor, are but some of the primary matters to be dealt with. These are problems to be sure but a region blessed so abundantly with natural resources such as Northern and Central British Columbia possess can be compared with many another section of Canada and not suffer in comparison.

GREAT ARTIST COMING

CEVERAL WEEKS AGO an outstanding manand-wife concert stage team visited Prince Rupert and we had occasion to comment on the paucity of the attendance and to chide even the music lovers of the city for their lack of interest and failure to turn out. Now, it is announced, the Civic Centre has undertaken an even more ambitious project of this nature in bringing to the city Kenneth Spencer, internationally famous negro basso, who has been booked to sing here on April 14. This, we do not need to emphasize, will be one of the outstanding events in the annals of good music in Prince Rupert. In order that, not only the music lovers but everyone in Prince Rupert may have the opportunity of hearing this great artist, two public-spirited local business concerns have agreed to underwrite the recital and make reasonable admission fees possible.

The Civic Centre people are to be commended on their courage in bringing Spencer to Prince Rupert and appreciation is due the business people who have underwritten the affair and all cencerned with its promotion.

Prince Rupert people should consider it a stroke of good fortune that Spencer is to be heard here at " all, much less having to be reminded that if they miss hearing him it will be something they will have cause to regret.

Spencer is an artist who not only appeals to the lovers of good music but to those of even the most common-place taste.

There need be no doubt but that Spencer will stand them up. The question will be who gets there first.

CLOSING OF RAIL LINES

Economies Being Effected On British Railways

By NORMAN CRIBBENS Canadian Press Staff Writer economies.

Railways Administration says. purpose was to destroy. Curiou

Some of these lines already creatures, are we not? have faded into history. Since January 1948, 10 branch lines and 25 stations and "whistlestops" were closed altogether or closed to passengers.

CRAB AND WINKLE

only—for instance the East Kent Tempus fugit! Light Railway near Canterbury continues to serve a colliery.

water River.

In the official Jargon of the Railway Guide, the Crab and Winkle is the Tollesbury Light Railway. Its chief reformer is "Puffing Bertha," a solitary and aged locomotive which takes an hour to haul two creaking and unwilling coaches and six trucks eight miles—with a little shunting on the way.

There are gates galore on the Crab and Winkle but no gatemen. So each time one is reached Fireman Joe Mullet drops his shovel and jumps down from the engine cab to open it.

After Bertha, the best-known character on the line, is Spiky, a mongrel who barkes trains in and out of Tollesbury and sometimes races Bertha along the

Spanning the lonely Romney Marshes is the privately-owned Romney-Hythe-Dymchurch Railway with tracks only 15 inches wide. Over this minute-run run a small gas-powered locomotive and 12 tiny passenger coaches.

Others still not nationalized are the Eskdale Line in the Cumberland Lake district, the smallest railway in the British Islesthe three-foot-wide Isle-of-Man Railway and the Brighton Electric running along the seashore for only 11/2 miles.

ALASKA PENSION MAY GO TO \$80

JUNEAU-Eighty dollars a month may become the territory's old age pension figure. The House had voted for \$90. The Senate voted for \$75. The present pension is \$60. A committee, representing both Houses, met in con Prence, talked over the situation and favored a compromise of \$80. The bill includes the present laws requirements of citizenship and five years' residence in Alaska during the past

BABY'S CRY IS NOT ALWAYS TEMPER

DISTINGUISH between your baby's cry of pain and cry of temper. The "pain cry" should have instant attention. For the feverish distress due to gas on stomach or bowels or those Common digestive upsets, give Baby's Own Tablets at once, Mrs. May Mundy, of Toronto, finds they work every time.

"I am the mother of nine children, three of them prize babies, and Baby's Own Tablets have been my only medicine in raising them to the healthy children they now are. As soon as my children became a little feverish I at once gave them Baby's Own Tablets and in a very short time the fever disappeared and children were normal again."

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Reminiscences

ing, on that scenic lookout on property loss, filth, fires and Thumb" railways are shaking in ways reserve is nothing new, and traps! A rattlesnake is their sidings over threats of The same has happened there menace and so is a rat. before. The stupid instinct to Certain stations and branch destroy remains with us. Did lines over which the tiny loco- somebody say "stupid?" It took motives pull their pram-like talent, thought, superlative carriages are going to be closed skill and long labor to produce as unresponsive, the British the atomic bomb. Its exclusive

Seems only yesterday we were recovering from the hearty effects of Christmas and New Year. Recollections of drifting snow, frosty mornings and streaming blizzards stay ex-Of the 10 lines, three are being ceedingly fresh. Today it's all maintained for freight traffic about gardens and spring styles

"A colony of rats so huge that Of the many small railways the whole area can be seen at Crab and Winkle Railway link- news story, Wednesday, em- shortly after the arrival of the tween it and where the ing Kelvedon, Essex, with Tolles- phasizing need of the immedi- Prince Rupert yesterday, oldtimers used to dwell is bury, a picturesque village on ate start of the incinerator at strangers heading up the cinder emphatic as to be almost viothe lower reaches of the Black- the city dump. It can't begin path to First Avenue all carried lent.

City telephones, city sewers city water and city streets are all calling for attention and while the subject of municipal improvements is before the Resurfacing is badly needed. There are places where it's hard to determine which worse-unsightly to look on, or uneven to walk on. And of course, once the top becomes broken and open, there will always be those who feel it has suddenly become their business to widen the space without delay by casually kicking at it.

CONSERVING OF SALMON

JUNEAU-There will be put into effect for this 1949 season, new regulations in the salmon Partial destruction of seat- too soon. Rats mean disease, industry. They are reported to be designed primarily to rebuild LONDON (-Britain's "Tom the Canadian National Rail- plagues. Bring on your poison the declining pink salmon runs of southeastern Alaska. The most important changes toward conservation involve restrictions of seine fishing and gill netting in specified areas, a fall season of only ten days, a change in the method of closing salmon traps, aerial identification of house, why not go a little fur- boats, and the keeping of statther, and include city sidewalks istical records by buyers and

> valises, bags and other sundry possessions. Or were they so deighted with the morning and invigorating air, not always inhaled in the more populous

The Westview site, occupied by the Pioneer's Home, gives an outlook that for sheer beauty still under private ownership, times swarming with grey fur". Signs of new born thrift, or and colorful scope can take a the quaintest is the single-track The foregoing appeared in a thoughts of recession. Anyway, lot of beating. The contrast be-

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... LABOR'S MONTHLY SURVEY

of the American Federation of Labor for January, 1949

Bringing charges in the United States against Soviet Socialist Russia for the operation of slave labor camps, the American Federation of Labor wants no home-grown variety of socialism in North America.

As evidenced by the above quotation from the A. F. of L. Monthly Labor Survey for January, the philosophy of socialism or state ownership is rejected as harmful to the interests of organized labor.

British Columbia Federation of Trade & Industry