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Dr. J. D. MacLean

UNSPECTACULAR but hard-working and persevering, Dr. John Duncan MacLean, former Premier of British Columbia, who died Sunday night in Ottawa, left his mark in British Columbia affairs, although it being twenty years since he was Premier and then only for a year between two such personalities as John Oliver before him and Dr. S. F. Tolmie after him, he may have been to some extent forgotten. He had served for many years as chairman of the Federal Farm Board at Ottawa, quietly but effectively and had become more or less detached from his native province.

A poor farm boy, Dr. MacLean had to make his way through life from the very start. Even to obtain his medical degree, years were required but he had the ambition and resolution to see him through. His personality was such that he made friends, commanded esteem and respect and Greenwood, then a flourishing mining town where he located, gave him his start in public life. He served as alderman and mayor there and was sent as Member of the Legislative Assembly. Soon he was recognized as of cabinet timber and Mr. Oliver named him as Minister of Education and Provincial Secretary.

Dr. MacLean went quietly to work to master the details of his departments, and having done so, gradually revolutionized them. He did not do things in a spectacular manner, but gradually and without fuss accomplished a great deal. He took over the privately operated tubercular sanatorium at Tranquille for the government; established a home for incurables at Marpole, and remodelled and reorganized the boys' industrial school and mental hospitals. The standard of teaching was raised in the province and many important changes were inaugurated in the educational system, including technical schools. He set to work to permanently house the University of British Columbia, and this was accomplished.

In addition to his other departments he was given the portfolio of railways, and this involved the handling of the difficult Pacific Great Eastern situation.

After the 1924 election and the retirement of the Hon. John Hart as minister of finance, Dr. MacLean was given this portfolio, relinquishing those of provincial secretary and railways, but retaining the ministry of education. After a detailed study of the provincial finances, he was able upon the presentation of his first budget to announce a material reduction of taxation, followed by further economies in succeeding years.

During the illness of the late Premier John Oliver he was chosen as acting Premier, and when, on August 18, 1927, Mr. Oliver died, Dr. MacLean was unanimously selected by his Liberal colleagues of the Legislature to succeed Mr. Oliver as prime minister, holding the office one year when his government was defeated. He was already in his federal post when the Liberals came back later under T. D. Pattullo.

SUPPORTS COAST GUARD

EDITORIAL AGITATION which has been going on in such newspapers as the Vancouver Sun and Province and the Prince Rupert Daily News in favor of the establishment of a Canadian coast-guard service on the Pacific Coast receives vigorous support, supplemented by some new ideas, from one of the coast's best known veteran master mariners in the person of Capt. John Muir, for years skipper of Union Steamship Co. vessels and more recently marine superintendent for that company. Vessels of the fisheries patrol, lighthouse and hydrographic services might be used as the nucleus of a Coastguard to give possible succor to crews of distressed vessels in their vicinity, Capt. Muir suggests. Powerful tugboats which operate on the coast could be called upon to tow distressed vessels in case of emergency.

Capt. Muir adds: "No more efficient or capable hands could be found anywhere for Coastguard duties than the sturdy, fearless lads who earn their living on British Columbia halibut vessels, fish packers, trollers, seiners and gillnetters. Such vessels should, and could, be equipped with modern life-saving equipment approved for mobile coast-guard stations such as those established on the coasts of United States and Great Britain."

Properly organized and equipped, "it would be almost certain that one of our Coastguard, on receiving the international SOS appeal direct from any distressed vessels or relayed from other ships or land stations, would be on her way to render assistance in a very short space of time."

Of course, Capt. Muir suggests, a Canadian Coastguard cutter, with proper and full equipment and trained crew, would be of very useful service. Another suggestion of Capt. Muir's is the establishment of helicopter stations at Coal Harbor, Quatsino Sound and Sandspit.

"It is to be hoped," concludes the captain "that, in spite of federal objections, the editorials will result in some kind of a Canadian Coastguard being formed soon."

THIS AND THAT



The George Mathew Adams Service, Inc.

Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.I.

Oxford lost the annual rowing classic last Saturday. Cambridge, it seems, had the added advantage of swallowing all the rich milk needed, when training. Indeed, they brought their own cow. Oxford used some whale meat as an article of diet. Perhaps they should have ordered cod liver oil (daily pint) in tissue paper with pink ribbon.

An all-wise Providence, doubtless, intended the rat to be of some use in the world but the ordinary man hasn't discovered it. We usually associate the rat with being filthy, a destroyer of needed food, a spreader of fire and a bearer of disease. Therefore, destroy the brute! When it's realized that a single pair can multiply to 1,330 in a year (so it's been estimated) Prince Rupert can afford to lose plenty.

Some of these chilly-eyed Irish sweepstake winners do not deserve to win anything, anywhere, any time. Here's a young fellow in Ontario, with wife and family, and precious little else who, getting the good news in an in-different way and lighting a fresh fag, says he doesn't think \$40,000 is so much. Who can really live on that? How many can say that they could actually retire? Being obliging souls, we stand ready to mail him a Prince Rupert telephone directory anytime.

Cadets from Seattle, in Prince Rupert last week on a training cruise admired two of the finest totem poles in Canada reeling on Second Avenue, and said they wondered if there was any law against standing up. They were told no one had been able to find that out, just yet.

Train Schedule

For the East—
Monday, Wednesday, Friday—
8 p.m.
From the East—
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—
10:45 p.m.

Mrs. Scherk, for some years employed as assistant at Little's News Stand, resigned her duties there last week-end.

Steamship Sailings

For Vancouver—
Monday—ss Princess Louise 11 p.m.
Tuesday—ss Catala 1:30 p.m.
Thursday—ss Prince Rupert 1:15 p.m.
From Vancouver—
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Monday—ss Princess Louise 11 p.m.
Wednesday—ss Prince Rupert 10:00 a.m.
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Friday—ss Cardena, midnight or Alaska—
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Letters to the Editor

CITY INSURANCE

Editor, Daily News:
In your report of the last meeting of the city council it was stated that the council had adopted a recommendation of the finance committee that insurance of all city-owned buildings and equipment be made through a Vancouver firm and a contract on these lines be favored.

I wonder if the ratepayers are aware of what this means. This contract, I understand, is similar to one presented to the finance committees in 1945 and 1946 and which the finance committees of those years, under the chairmanship of Aid. Hills, would not recommend to the council.

Under the terms of the contracts all policies would be written by the company or agent holding the contract for a period of years and the premiums thereon divided between the local insurance agents now doing business in the city, the company holding the contract getting two shares of the premiums and the remainder being equally divided.

Perhaps you ask what is wrong with this procedure? Looking further into it you will find that, during the life of the contract, no firm which is not now in business in the city will be entitled to insure any city property or equipment. In other words, it gives a monopoly to the existing firms.

I am reliably informed that, in the negotiations prior to the completion of the contract, it was proposed that only firms which had been in business for three years be entitled to share in the present contract.

However, owing to the insistence of one of the school trustees, this was not strictly adhered to and a firm which had been in business for a few months was included.

It would be interesting to know who is the local representative

of the holder of that contract. Evidently all members of the council were not familiar with the provisions of the contract. Otherwise I do not believe they would have voted for the creation of this monopoly. Perhaps they may look into this and let the ratepayers know the full terms.

It will be argued that the proposal is in the best interests of the city as it will provide for uniform and complete coverage by having one firm taking care of the writing of all policies.

However, this can easily be obtained by having the property official check all policies and see that the necessary coverage is secured both in the writing of new policies and the renewal of existing ones.

Why should city insurance be limited to these now in business and any citizen who may enter this business in the future be barred from obtaining a share of the business?

Let the public know the facts.
H. M. DAGGETT.

GRIM FOREBODINGS

Editor, Daily News:
What with this Easter Sunday's radio commentators abroad, striving desperately to "drive home" the new look on the grim Outlook, Easter's New Look was fairly overshadowed. All of which is understandable. But when dreams vie for the supremacy of "portending" the gravity of the new outlook... it is just too much. For instance, on two successive nights my gentle slumberings have been intercepted dramatically by two respective dreams. In the first dream, I was verily a "Pistol Packing Mama," in a brand new role. After seeing dozens of miniature barely submerged submarines in Prince Rupert's harbor, from where I stood on the wharf, as well as almost simultaneously a gigantic heap of shotguns nearby, I hastily grabbed one of the weapons and "fairly frightened out of my New Look," fled into the nearest of... I raised the shotgun as mute evidence... when it accidentally fired straight into the midst of the half dozen "minding-their-own-business" men. (It was simply a miracle that not one was shot "thank goodness." Then I awakened.

The following constitutes my second dream as "out of the clear blue sky" so to speak, generally dozens of... ing from the skies... fore they touched... without parachutes... they landed... right. "It's just the traveling by air," I stammered as I looked... ed. Certainly, it was Easter parade for a single woman... with a New Look... a single woman... VIOLET

Local Battery Has 'Stand-Do'

With a number of bers being engaged in... sonal fishing pursuits... 120th anti-aircraft... be having its... "standdown" although... missioned officers... classes will continue... of the unit will be... to summer camp... Flains, Esquimaux... now moving in... which has a pres... of 53 officers and... with a gradual in... listment.

clear blue sky" so to speak, generally dozens of... ing from the skies... fore they touched... without parachutes... they landed... right. "It's just the traveling by air," I stammered as I looked... ed. Certainly, it was Easter parade for a single woman... with a New Look... a single woman... VIOLET

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