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Election Winds

AN EARLY provincial election may be in the wind. Coalition members in the House are talking that way. The C.C.F. indicates that it would just as soon head off a contest within the next few months.

With big industrial enterprises actively interesting themselves in setting up in the province on an unprecedented scale, the suggestion is made that an unstable political situation in British Columbia might have an adverse effect upon final decisions to locate here. Therefore, it would be desirable to clear the political atmosphere once and for all.

From the straight political standpoint, it is understandable from the coalition aspect where an early election might be desirable. The Premier has brought down an ambitious expansion program, the effecting of which would ensure a great measure of development and a long era of prosperity. The government has something on which to go to the country.

Also from the political standpoint, it might be considered desirable that an early provincial election be held so that the solidarity of the coalition, whatever its degree of strength and cohensiveness may be, would not be adversely affected by differences between the two old parties which might be accentuated in a federal contest which is also a practical crtainty this year.

There appears to be good reason to believe that the provincial election may come first after all.

CITY OR WILDS

IT SO HAPPENS that most of the people living in British Columbia also dwell in or near the city of Vancouver. It's always been that way. What's to be done about it? Not very much! Time can make a change but it's a tedious process. As a matter of fact, much of B.C. is still a wilderness. Some people prefer a crowd to the frontier. But the bright lights, the shows and the Hollywood flavor attract attract more. Most of us want the easy and not the hard way. But that does not say it's always easy in the big town. The lure, however, is there but ample ground for expansion will always be available in the great open spaces.

BARREL STAVES

DOWN the gleaming snow slopes of the world's winter resorts a modern generation slides and glides on skis. It is an exacting sport, an exercise calling for co-ordination, a pliant strength and timing. Practiced by experts it achieves dazzling speed, grace and rhythm.

But can the stylized performance of the present ski enthusiast produce the rollicking fun of an earlier boyhood's haphazard descent down a neighborhood snow hill on barrel staves? Here was shown a native dexterity born and nurtured in the school of hardy experience. No instructor taught the youngster how to place his feet, how to attempt a turn, how to preserve a balance. Those were accomplishments seldom attained. There was little direction, other than downward. Grace was inadvertant and infrequent, and a successful slide was more a miracle than a triumph.

But there was a rich reward in laughter from himself and his fellows when the curved staves dub into the snow to throw a rider into a drift, or when the rockered boards raced out from under him. The game was an invitation to light-hearted merriment, to rough bumps cheerfully taken. And though it lacked the possibilities of smooth perfection, of elegance in execution, it held a boisterous appeal that was all its own.

—Victoria Times.

SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY

HAMILTON (CP)—The city irregular growth from the centre outward will be studied by 22 four-member groups of McMaster University students. Sponsored for educational purposes, results will be compiled and handed over to the city planning department.

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CANADIAN CLUB SPEAKER—Rev. William Hills of Victoria, noted Royal Canadian Navy chaplaincy veteran vicar of the Church of England, coming here to address the local Women's Canadian Club next Wednesday night. Mr. Hills was born in Leicestershire, Eng., but is a graduate of the University of Toronto and Wycliffe College. He started the ministry in England shortly before the war, during the most of which he served in the Navy and become known as "The Voice of the Navy." He is also active in veterans' work. A member of the Victoria Gyro Club, he has been invited to be a guest of the local club at its weekly luncheon.

BAD TIME IN MIDDLE STATES

JUNEAU—Albert White, general counsel of the Republican party of Alaska, is back from a visit to the middle states. He said he found unemployment increasing, prices going down, and the worst weather in American history. In Nevada, 45 below zero was recorded. He saw deer and sheep lying near the railway tracks, frozen to death. More than 800 lumber mills were closed down in Oregon and Washington. The Southern Pacific Railway had laid off 2,500 employees. Mr. White attended a Republican convention in Omaha.

PRINCE RUPERT YEARS AGO

Twenty-Five Years Ago

The Coastwise Steamship and Barge Co.'s ore steamer Amur was aground in precarious condition at White Cliff Island near the mouth of the Skeena following a gale. She had been northbound for Anyox.

The Literary Society of Booth Memorial High School took over the day's edition of the Daily News. Student groups were responsible for editing the copy and gathering the news.

A Royal Commission on pulpwood, chiefly concerned with its conservation, would sit at Prince Rupert, it was announced. Commissioners were W. A. Anstie, J. Sutherland and E. H. Finley.

Thirty-Five Years Ago

The Bank of Montreal notified the city that it would undertake to dispose of the balance of treasury notes floated and advance money to the city in the meantime. Total amount of the issue was $371,000. Price asked for the bonds was 96.

The Prince Rupert Civilian Rifle Association elected the following officers: Captain, D. C. Stuart; vice-captain, W. J. Greer; treasurer, Donald Brown; secretary, G. G. Cameron; executive, C. T. Partington, E. H. Shockley, J. Cargill.

Rev. F. W. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr sailed on the Princess Beatrice for New Westminster where Mr Kerr had accepted a pastorate. A number of friends saw the couple off.

NO COLD DRINKS

RAPID CITY, Man. (CP)—The community may have no ice next summer. A log in the dam in the Little Saskatchewan River gave way here recently, and the ice now rests on the river bottom.

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Songs, Atmosphere of South With Rotary Minstrel Show

The old - fashioned minstrel show came to Prince Rupert Thursday for a two-day stand, bringing audiences who attended evening and matinee performances at the Civic Centre the delightful song and color of a South that existed probably only in the imaginations of composers and inspired dialogue writers.

It was the second presentation of the Prince Rupert Rotary Club minstrel show, complete with an excellent male chorus, prattling end men, dance teams and pantomine, all wrapped up in packages as black as burned cork.

The two-hour show opened with a matinee for children in the afternoon and then played to an audience of 400 in the evening.

Those who were in a position to compare yesterday's performances with those of the original minstrel show last year noted a marked development in the chorus which was the backbone of the show. Under the direction of C. P. Balagno, its conductor, it has in the last few months, blossomed into a harmonious unit in which voices and sections blend smoothly.

The whole show was presented in a professional manner and moved along with a certainty that is often lacking in amateur performances. To achieve such a result with so large a cast is highly creditable to the musical and dramatic direction.

Although songs of the south naturally predominated in the choral numbers, the group did deviate from the Mason and Dixon atmosphere to include the rousing light operatic "Drinking Song" in the early part of the program. With that exception ,the chorus went through the almost complete library of nostalgic songs.

Often with novel arrangements, many produced by Mr. Balagno, the chorus sang "In the Land of Cotton," "Deep River," "Kentucky Babe," "Old Man River," "Swing Low," "Roll the Old Chariot Along," "Going Home" and a final meledy which included almost everything that they had missed previously.

The chorus was supported by an 11-piece orchestra drawn from the Prince Rupert Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Neville Gerrard. It completed in a most satisfying manner the music of the singers.

Perhaps the finest arrangement of the evening was the choral rendition of "Going Home" which was sung beautifully and gave excellent opportunity for the group's two tenor soloists, A. J. Teng and H. S. Whalen.

Interspersed between the songs was the chatter of the four end men, in continual controversy with each other and with Interlocutor E. T. Applewhaite. With costumes inspired obviously by a particularly lurid nightmare and dialogue developed from the local scene they were in the tradition of their kind. In spite of their black faces, they were named, Mr. White, Mr. Green, Mr. Brown, a color combination that was glorified by Miss Topsie Spink. The players, in the above order were P. H. Linzey, M. F. Stuart, Jack Cobb and A. P. Crawley.

A dance team of five pickaninnies from Mrs. Mavis Colclough's dancing class did a pleasing group tap dance to "Small Fry" as sung by Bonnie Sprinkle with accompaniment by Andy McNaughton, pianist, and Bob Woods, drums. The dance was marked by skillful precision and clever footwork. The five little dancers were Janice Taylor, Sonja Berg, Jackie Gustafson, Ann Colussi and Elsa Insulander.

Tiny Heather Macdonald, did a solo performance of a syncopated dance and a tap routine which was widely applauded.

The pantomine routine of Jerry and Janice Taylor, in which Jerry pantomined the Actions of Al Jolson while Jolson's voice sang from a record, drew curtain calls.

LIST OF CAST

Conductor—Charles Balagno.

Piano—Frances Moore.

First Tenors—J. A. Teng, Harold Whalen, George Standbridge, Carl Hansen.

Second Tenors—Walter Smith, F. H. Partridge, W. H. Shortridge, W. D. Griffiths, George Mead.

First Bass—B. J. Fortune, Dr. J. A. MacDonald, G. R. Brett, G. C. Mitchell, Aage Hansen, Wilf Taylor, J. Langridge, Andy Wyatt, W. T. Terry, James Bremner, Joe Scott.

Second Bass—A. D. Ritchie, H. T. Lock, D. H. E. McLean, S. Peachy, R. H. Adcock, Tom Black.

Interlocutor—Ed. Applewhaite.

Endmen—P. H. Linzey, M. F. Stuart, A. P. Crawley, J. Cobb.

ORCHESTRA

First Violins—A. C. Cameron, Nellie Anderson, Fred Conrad.

Second Violins—Marjorie Smith, Fred Huber.

String Bass—J. Curle, Neville Gerrard, B. F. Sprinkle.

Trumpet—George Brown.

Trombone—A. G. Brain.

Drums—R. C. Woods.

Stage Manager—Norton T. Youngs.

Ushers were A. S. Nickerson, William Simmons. Door attendant was Alex McRae.

Spot lighting was in charge of Alan Colelough.

INVINCIBLE SCOTS

ELKHORN, Man. (CP)—Piper Carnegie of Arrow Lake broke his leg and haggis was missing too, but Elkhorn Scots celebrated Burns Night anyway, turkey substituting for haggis. Carnegie was in a snowmobile on his way to the St. Andrew's Society meeting.

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Smith county, Kansas, is the geographic centre of the United States

SURVIVES CRASH—Badly bruised about the face and with two broken ankles, Robert Milligan is in St. Joseph's Hospital at Sudbury following an airplane crash 24 miles northeast of Gogama, Ont., last week. Two Indian trappers died in the crash. Milligan was piloting the plane from Matogami Post to Kenogamassi Lake when the engine quit as the craft was coming in for a landing. Milligan was forced to lie on the ice for hours before the wrecked aircraft was sighted and another plane brought aid to him. (C. P. Photo)

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