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Air Field Here

IT IS APPROPRIATE enough that the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, as it pursues the campaign for the establishment of an air field at this port, should draw to the attention of the International Joint Defence Board the strategic position of Prince Rupert in the defence picture in the Pacific arena.

The powers that be appear to be very complacent about this long strip of open and unprotected coastline which would be an invitation to enemy attack in case of war. Realists are regularly enough telling the government that the British Columbia coast could not expect to go untouched in another conflict of arms.

During the last war at the time when there was a threat of Japanese encroachment the defence authorities had all but started the establishment of an air field contiguous to Prince Rupert. With the certainty that Prince Rupert would be more than ever involved in the event of another war, it would appear that an air field here is an elementary and immediate defence requirement.

But, in addition to all that, Prince Rupert has good claim to an air field from the straight commercial standpoint.

NOBODY WINS STRIKE

COMMISSIONER Harry E. Scheck of the United States mediation service has retired and in an interview with a newspaperman he said his lifetime of experience had shown him that nobody wins a strike. He stated that lost wages, lost production, family hardship, the aftermath of bitterness, are among things that are never fully paid for by any gains.


The London dockers who struck for 25 days over the question of unloading two Canadian ships can testify to that so far as loss is concerned. Perhaps they struck for a principle, but financially they lost more than three weeks' wages and went back to work having lost all and gained nothing because it was a strike unauthorized by the unions. Therefore, there was no strike pay and no unemployment allowance.

There have been innumerable instances of fruitless strikes in Canada and the United States since the war and before it. Right now the Canadian Seaman's Union strike is pointless, because it is a jurisdictional strike—a hatred of a new rival union—and, if and when they return to their ships, it won't be for more pay or shorter hours, but merely recognition of their union as the bargaining agent, and their three months' idleness, so far, will have been dead loss.

Some of the largest companies in the United States have experienced long strikes. Weeks or months have gone by before the workers went back after accepting two-thirds or half of what they struck for. But supposing they got 10 to 20 cents an hour more, it will take several years to make good the losses in pay. Then by that time it will be time for another strike. And so the circle goes on. The men and employers all lose money and the public suffers too.

Both sides should strive to the limit to reach an agreement by mediation. As Mr. Scheck said: "Nobody wins a strike."

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PHONE GREEN 667

Victoria Report

by J. K. Nesbitt

Only Premier Unexcited Over P.G.E.— Mr. Anscomb Opens Up For Change

By J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Premier Johnson left for Ottawa the other day to discuss housing and with an invitation in his pocket from Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington State to go to Washington, D.C., to discuss the future of the P.G.E.

A great stir was caused in the Legislative Buildings when it became known the Premier had the bid to the U.S. capital. The Premier wasn't in the least excited. He seemed to feel the invitation didn't mean much and that politicians in the State of Washington, whenever things get dull there, whoop up the good old P.G.E. and say they would like to buy it as a link in a proposed railway from Seattle to Alaska.

One would think a provincial premier of Canada would jump at the chance to meet President Truman. Mr. Magnuson intimated that perhaps Mr. Johnson might be able to see the President. Mr. Johnson, of course, would like such an interview but he didn't seem fussy about it as he took a plane for Ottawa.

Like his immediate predecessor, John Hart, the Premier plays coy whenever it is said the U.S. would like the P.G.E. Once more the other day he said that if anyone has a bona fide offer his government will consider it but it certainly won't play around with promoters who would like to get their hands on large slices of B.C.'s natural resources in return for development of the P.G.E.

At a press conference in the Premier's office, someone suggested it was time a B.C. Premier went calling on a United States President again. This brought up the famous time T. D. Pattullo cut through protocol and red tape and telephoned his old friend President Roosevelt and got invited to tea at Hyde Park with the President and his mother. The Canadian Embassy in Washington was shocked when it heard about the affair. Mr. Pattullo hadn't gone through the Embassy, as diplomacy said he should. He merely responded to the president's invitation "come and see me sometime," extended by Roosevelt

how the sales tax is coming in he said "Fine, just fine." He even went so far as to say there would be no difficulty in collecting the \$18,000,000 this year he estimated in his last budget address to the Legislature.

This new frankness was surprising enough to the reporters. One grew so bold as to ask how the liquor profits are holding up, that he had noted they were dropping in Washington States. "Well, they're not dropping here," Mr. Anscomb said, and he told the press it could say, if it was of any interest to anyone, that B.C. is facing no problem in collecting the \$16,250,000 he said it would last Spring.

Mr. Anscomb was bursting with buoyant optimism. Everything's going along beautifully, he said; just at the moment, anyway. And then he frowned a bit—and looked a little worried. He said he couldn't see into the future. He didn't like devaluation. But, from month to month, all is

well with British Columbia, he said. Asked what eastern Canadian money men think of British Columbia, the Minister of Finance boomed: "They think it's a wonderful place—with a darn fine bunch running it."

W. J. Raymond is leaving on tomorrow morning's way freight for Terrace where he will pay a brief visit before proceeding to New Hazelton to spend a holiday of a week or ten days.

You saw it in the News!

FIRST SNOWFALL ON NEARBY HILLS

The higher peaks off to the north, around Wark Canal, were white yesterday, the snow being first of the season at that height sighted from the townsite. Mount Morse, across the harbor, got its first coating during last night. Some citizens who keep records manage to preserve dates of first snowfalls from year to year. September 22 is the earliest date that snow has ever appeared on Mount Morse.

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October 5, 1949.

The provincial Fire Marshall Act requires that all oil burning installations must meet specifications contained in the Act. Particular reference is made to non-combustible tank-stands, size of vents and position of non-connected supply drums.

Notice is hereby given that owners of such oil burning equipment not now meeting these standards must make the required changes within 60 days of the above date. For details of requirements, consult

E. W. BECKER,
Assistant Provincial Fire Marshall,
and City Fire Chief. (235)

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