

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

Prophet's Beard

DESPITE what he said yesterday about there being no winners, we are going to suggest to columnist Elmore Philpott that perhaps we are entitled to at least some of the hairs of the Beard of the Prophet he offers each year.

Apart from the fact that we prophesied Social Credit would win a plurality, instead of a majority, in the last provincial election, and slightly underestimated the power of the Liberals federally, we scored on all the questions he asked just one year ago.

For the record, our editorial on the subject, dated Jan. 2, 1953, read as follows:

"There will be a cease-fire in Korea but the peace will be an uneasy one. A heavily-guarded border between the north and south will be the scene of incidents from time to time.

"There will be no world war involving the U.S. against Russia, or any other combination of forces.

"Admission of organized German military units into the western defence alliance will remain an important issue but nothing will be done to execute it. Too many dangers are involved.

"Russia will still be a UN member in good standing at the end of the year.

"If there is a B.C. election during the year, Social Credit will be returned with an increased plurality but still lacking a majority. The order of the parties will remain unchanged.

"Louis St. Laurent will finish the year as our Prime Minister.

"In the event of a federal election, the Liberal government will be returned with a reduced majority. The order of the parties, and the seats held by each, will be: Liberals, 142; Conservatives, 70; CCF, 23; Social Credit, 21; others, 6."

How about it, Elmore?

Scripture Passage for Today

"The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father."—St. Matt. 16:27.

All Aboard By G.E. Mortimore

Ho hum! Turkey soup for breakfast again. I think the immortal bird Keats had in mind was a turkey rather than a nightingale.

"Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird! No hungry generations tread thee down."

Well, the hungry generations (very often grandparents, parents and children in the same house) do their best on Christmas Day and for many days afterwards, but the immortal turkey just will not be trodden down.

Long after the last candied artichoke has vanished down Junior's gullet, the turkey is still with us. All the Christmas dolls and teddy bears have now been dismembered by young disciples of Jack the Ripper, but the turkey still has all his bones intact—thanks to Father's incompetence with the carving knife.

If only we had given father the toys to play with and turned the children loose against the turkey with carving knives, a much more different division of labor would have been accomplished.

The toys would still be in good condition, and the turkey would be scattered through the

house, the drumsticks hanging on the Christmas tree, the parson's nose wedged in a chandelier, and fragments of white and dark meat peppered over the carpet like confetti.

However, we must face facts. The turkey looks a shade haggard and hung over, perhaps, but he remains in the house, a dull and stubborn Christmas dinner guest who has outstayed his welcome.

He disappears for a while, but he is only skulking in the pantry or the refrigerator, preparing to emerge in some new disguise—candied turkey, pickled turkey, turkey giblets or turkey stew. But he can't fool us, any more than Uncle Charley fooled us in that padded Santa Claus suit.

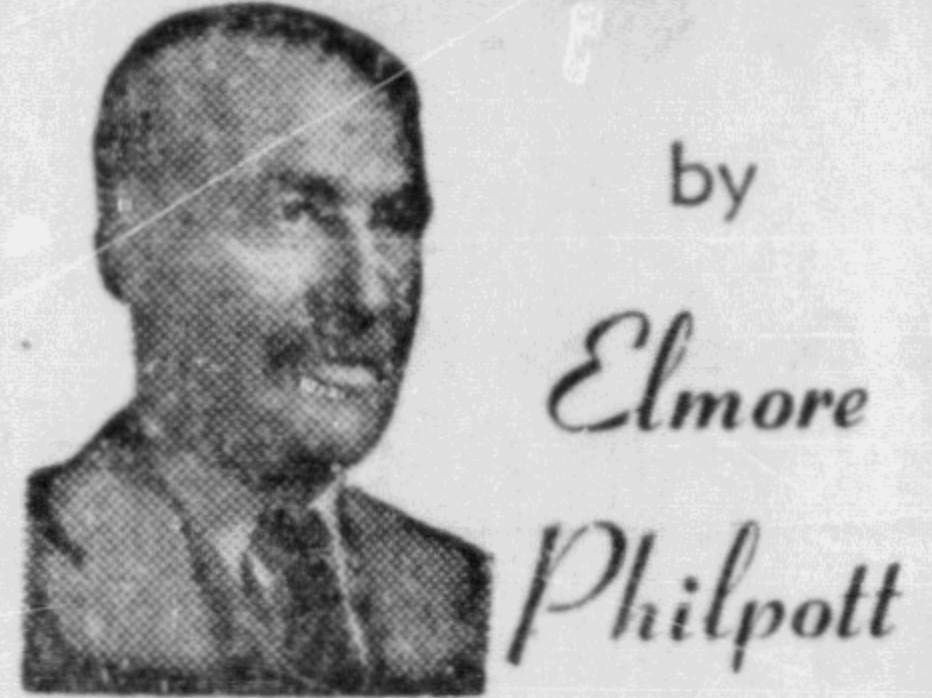
One thing about Uncle Charley, though—as soon as he had the stuffing taken out of him, and Christmas was finished, he went away. It's too bad the turkey can't be persuaded to follow his example.

Cranberry sauce, anyone?

HOT DEFENCE

Balconies on houses in Mediterranean countries were first built so boiling oil could be poured on attackers.

As I See It



India Peace Key

SOMETIMES I think that the Almighty Himself must have a special regard for that strange cluster of nations which we used to call the "British Empire" but now call the Commonwealth.

Some wit once said that God protects drunks, idiots "and the British Empire." For in spite of making just about every mistake possible, the British world kingdom has a way of "muddling through."

SURELY the pending visit of Canada's Prime Minister to India is one of the most fortunate things that ever happened for the British Commonwealth. Short-sighted United States policy has aggravated India to the point where really dangerous trends could be magnified throughout all India.

Notwithstanding India's clearly expressed opposition, United States is concluding a military alliance with Pakistan.

It is true that the scope of this alliance has been temporarily limited, and the U.S.A. has dropped the plan to establish American bombing bases on the soil of Pakistan. But Indians, who are as highly educated in power politics as any people in the world, will surely remember the pattern of the alliance between the U.S.A. and Spain. In the beginning all of the nations of western Europe, including Britain, expressed strong opposition to the Spanish-American alliance. The Americans temporarily dropped—or pretended to drop—the alliance.

So the Indians are not likely to take at face value Mr. Dulles' assurances that he has no intention to do in Pakistan what he did in Spain.

HENCE the inestimable value of the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Canada. Mr. St. Laurent is the one man in the whole western alliance best fitted to convince the people of India, from Nehru down to the humblest peasant, that the other nations of the British Commonwealth do understand what India is trying to do.

He can tell them for all of us that we know India's provocative attitude toward her big Communist neighbors to the north does not spring from weakness, nor from appeasement of evil, but from positive faith in positive attitudes.

Nobody knows better than our own Prime Minister that the famous four thousand mile undefended frontier between the United States and Canada was itself one of the greatest factors in keeping the peace between our two countries in North America. We can understand—even if John Foster Dulles does not—that intelligent Indians can believe they have more to lose than to gain, even in the military sense, from refusing to start an armament race with the Communists on their northern frontier.

WHAT Americans refuse to understand is that the same war bases which could be used by Pakistan in the event of war with Russia could also be used by Pakistan in the event of war with India.

The greatest contribution that any statesman can make to the people of southern Asia is to help create a basis of under-



THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER. By Jack Booth, Thomson Newspapers.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

It was a really good Christmas in the national Capital. Everyone from top government personnel down to the casual laborers who tidied up the city's streets after the light pre-Yuletide snowfall seemed to be in the mood. There was a subtle note of depth and sincerity to the mass celebration.

The explanation isn't too difficult to analyze. In recent weeks and months peace has seemed to be establishing itself ever more firmly in the saddle of world diplomacy. And the spirit of peace is the authentic spirit of Christmas.

External Affairs Minister L. B. Pearson and Defence Minister Brooke Claxton finally set the stage for a Capital-wide celebration of an old-time Christmas of peace and good-will when they returned from Paris and the NATO Council meeting just a week before the holiday. They brought back a summary of the latest diplomatic intelligence gleaned by the leading NATO powers, United States and Britain especially. And the conclusion which was common to all the reports was that the outlook for peace in the world was more secure than it had been at any time since the commencement of the cold war, and that it was gaining all the time. Despite the atomic weapons now reposing in

Soviet arsenals, top flight international observers who reported to the NATO grand alliance were unanimous in their belief that the Kremlin wasn't plotting a new war on its policy drafting board.

That doesn't mean that all is going to be plain sailing in the months ahead. The intelligence reports of the Western Allies suggest that, on the contrary, Russia proposes to maintain the cold war on at least its present scale—and even to step it up at intervals in order to keep the NATO powers guessing.

External Affairs Minister Pearson explained the situation to a press gallery correspondent by saying that Russian diplomacy towards the Western world in the months ahead was likely to be an alternation of "kicks and kindness." The aim of the Kremlin will be to keep the Western Allies tuned up to the pitch of a continuous war of nerves. The strategy back of such a policy is the traditional strain upon the unity of any group of Allies which a prolonged war of nerves imposes.

Though Britain does not look for any major recession in the U.S. economy, she is well aware that even a slight reduction can have serious effects here.

A one-per-cent slump in the United States brings, according to most economists, something like a five-per-cent slump in Britain as U.S. buying of British materials falls.

Butler will go into week-long discussions with his fellow finance ministers Jan. 8 hopeful of boosting inter-Commonwealth trade sufficiently to cushion a loss in dollar earnings.

"If we are going to move into difficult times we want to expand our strength and our resources out there (in the Commonwealth) and in this country as well," he said at the airport.

Most British newspapers see the U.S. economic outlook as the main backdrop of the Sydney conference. Most agree that the U.S. is headed for at least a minor recession.

Countries attending the conference are Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, the new Central African Federation and Canada, the only Commonwealth member which is not a member of the sterling currency area.

Earlier today Bidault reported to the National Assembly's foreign affairs committee on the Big Three's Bermuda conference. He told the committee that at Bermuda Prime Minister Churchill had favored integration of a West German army into the North Atlantic alliance, but that he reminded Churchill France holds a veto on new members in NATO.

He reported also that President Eisenhower held the opinion that "an autonomous German army is desirable neither for France, for the United States nor for Germany."

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Some men are said to be finding marriage laws giving more reason for worry, than just mere in-laws.

Up to the twenty-third of December, Vancouver is believed to have had 248 families with small prospect of having anything special two days later. Much can happen in two days. And it always does.

SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS Teetotalers are boys who carry golf clubs. They are generally paid, except in Scotland. Hygiene is keeping clean when it is not essential.

The climate of Bombay is such that its inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

James Wilson, boy friend of Marion McDowell, forced from the former's car in Toronto and not seen since is feeling better. He has passed the "lie detector" test in Buffalo. Detectives agree he had nothing to do with the case. But he had enough to worry over. Who wouldn't. Thoughts of a "lie detector" can disturb one's sleep, even if there is no such thing as guilt.

Gallup Polls, throughout Europe have found atheism growing. It is a sobering fact, says Fred Bodsworth in Macleans, that after six hundred years of Christian mission work, China is today less than one per cent Christian and India only about two per cent.

A girl's face can be her fortune, but if it's not fair, it fails to draw any interest.

"Horatio Alger awards" are made annually to those who have risen from rags to riches. But would it not be better to extend a helping hand to those who have slipped from riches to rags?

PICTURESQUE SPEECH He has a disposition like an untipped waiter.

ME AND YOU A local friend discovered among his papers, the other day, a document he'd forgotten he ever possessed. It was the gift of the late Morte Craig, artist who dwelt in Dawson during the days of '98, and told about the grand opening of a banquet at Pete's Road House. The list of good things to eat and drink

follows: Ice worm cocktail, Bean soup, Evaporated Potato Salad, Hootch, Flap Jacks and Bacon, Fricasee Plarmigan, Mountain Goat Cutlets, Roast Arctic Hare, Cariboo with jelly, Hootch, Frozen Hudson Bay punch, Hootch, Klutchman Berry Pie, Prune Pie, Dired Apple Pie, Hootch, Cafe Noir, Bull Durham and brown paper, Hootch. Good stable in rear for dog teams. Music, Moosehide Band. Three New Girls on the incoming stage. Dancing in the evening.

Want ad in Winnipeg Free Press: Girl wants board and room in private home. Non smoker, noon drinker.

There are 2,200 Indians on the Blood Reserve in Alberta, and all are growing richer, without special or particular effort. There should, indeed, be merit in this Christmas. It's merely the play of circumstances which, now and then, can be reckoned happy.

WISDOM ITSELF

On his 100th birthday anniversary recently, a California bachelor announced he was on the point of disclosing the secret of longevity, as he had found it. "Marriage," he stated, "is for women only. A man should have nothing to do with it." At last, we know.

Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first and the experience afterward.

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1953 Production Of Vital Nickel Up 25 Per Cent

COPPER CLIFF, Ont. (CP) — Nickel, strategic metal of war and peace, is pouring out of the refineries of the Free World in increasing quantities.

A year-end review of the industry by Dr. John F. Thompson, chairman of the Board of International Nickel Company of Canada, Ltd., estimates this year's Free World production at 240,000,000 pounds.

This is 20,000,000 pounds more than in 1952, and more than 25 per cent more than in 1949, the year immediately preceding the Korean war and the defence programs which followed. It is a peacetime record and approximates wartime peaks.

Dr. Thompson estimates production in the coming year at 385,000,000 pounds, and that capacity by 1960 will be 75 per cent above 1949.

BIGGEST PRODUCER

Canada this year produced an estimated 285,000,000 pounds, or 85 per cent of the total, and Canadian expansion programs will account for much of the expected increase.

International Nickel Company, the world's largest producer, with operations centred in the Suburb district of northern Ontario, increased monthly production capacity by 2,000,000 pounds in December, and its annual production rate now is approximately 275,000,000 pounds.

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THE FISHING SEASON in the Port Arthur, Ont., district, is reported as the best in several years. About 12 tons of herring are spread out on a wharf waiting to be processed and frozen. The best of the herring is shipped to customers across Canada. The rest is sold for food scrap.