

Prince Rupert Daily News

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B.C.'s Poor Defence

CRITICISM of Canada's defence force by Lt.-Col. H. W. J. Peck in Vancouver has focussed attention on the inadequacy of B.C.'s coastal protection.

Speaking anonymously, military men admit that the RCAF, which probably would be the first service in contact with the enemy, is far below strength for the job. There is only one active squadron on the coast, based at Comox, and that is primarily for anti-submarine duty. Two reserve fighter squadrons are based at Sea Island, but they have obsolete planes that could not hope to intercept top-flight jets.

In these circumstances, the defence of B.C. is dependent primarily on air strength in Alaska. If an attacking bomber force could avoid interception from that quarter, it would have virtually a clear path into the heart of Canada—a likely target before the ultimate plunge into the U.S.A.

Although laymen should avoid guesswork on military strategy, it does not seem too naive to suggest that a long-range bomber attack could escape Alaskan interference by skirting the territory and crossing the coast at some point north of Vancouver Island. With mid-air refuelling now an established manoeuvre, distance is much less of a problem than before.

Since Port Hardy could in an emergency revert to its function as an air force base, the enemy's course logically would be well up in this direction where the coast is particularly vulnerable. Once over the mountains, the attackers could choose their direction at will.

While it is true that Sandspit could be utilized if there were sufficient warning, it would be a makeshift measure at best. The single strip there does not lend itself to all-weather flying, and there would be serious problems of supply. The operation would tie up ships and men which would be much more useful elsewhere.

If this line of reasoning makes any sense at all, a coastal airport in this vicinity — as well as a squadron to man it—appears to be a matter of real importance. Naturally one prefers to believe that world conditions will never provoke the attack described, but optimism is no substitute for defence. If those planes ever do appear off these shores, our earlier hopes will not render them harmless.

Because of the certainty of its benefits to this whole northwest district in peacetime, and its possible value to all of Canada in war, let us see construction of that airport start without more delay.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The myth that Canada has been engaged for some time past in the short-sighted pursuit of tossing away her traditional United Kingdom market in exchange for a less dependable market in the United States isn't standing up very well in the light of available facts.

It seems that instead of selling less wheat to Britain in the current crop year, Canada so far has sold more than last year—despite the fact that last year Britain was a member of the International Wheat Agreement club, which she isn't this year, and also despite the fact that last year was an all-time record year for international wheat trading.

Here are the wheat figures, so far as the United Kingdom and British Commonwealth countries are concerned: To Britain Canada this year has sold so far 29,315,527 bushels, as compared with 25,078,975 bushels in the corresponding period of last year. To Commonwealth countries (including Britain) sales so far this year have amounted to 36,544,921 bushels, as against 28,587,865 bushels last year.

To foreign countries wheat sales so far this year are down moderately — from 118,238,931 bushels to 88,286,515 bushels. The British figures are viewed by government experts with particular satisfaction, in view of the fact that the United Kingdom had its storage facilities jammed when the crop year opened and only became a purchaser in the late Fall months. It will not surprise Ottawa at all now if before the present year is over sales to the United Kingdom surpass last year by a considerable margin.

In any event, the anxiety once held for a possible marketing crisis in wheat for this year has completely disappeared. Crisis

will not come now, the experts say, unless Canada and the world produce another bumper crop in the 1954 harvest. That could create a real marketing problem.

In the field of imports, the approximately four-for-one preference which trade figures have been showing in recent months for United States goods over goods from the United Kingdom now stands revealed as wholly a matter of competitive prices. A study which has just been completed shows that United Kingdom export prices have gone up 218 percent as compared with prices prior to World War II; over the same period United States export prices have advanced only 110 percent. In this price situation United States goods naturally and inevitably are getting the nod from Canadian purchasers. It is at least clear that no matter of higher- and strange-trading policy on the part of the Canadian Government is involved in the picture.

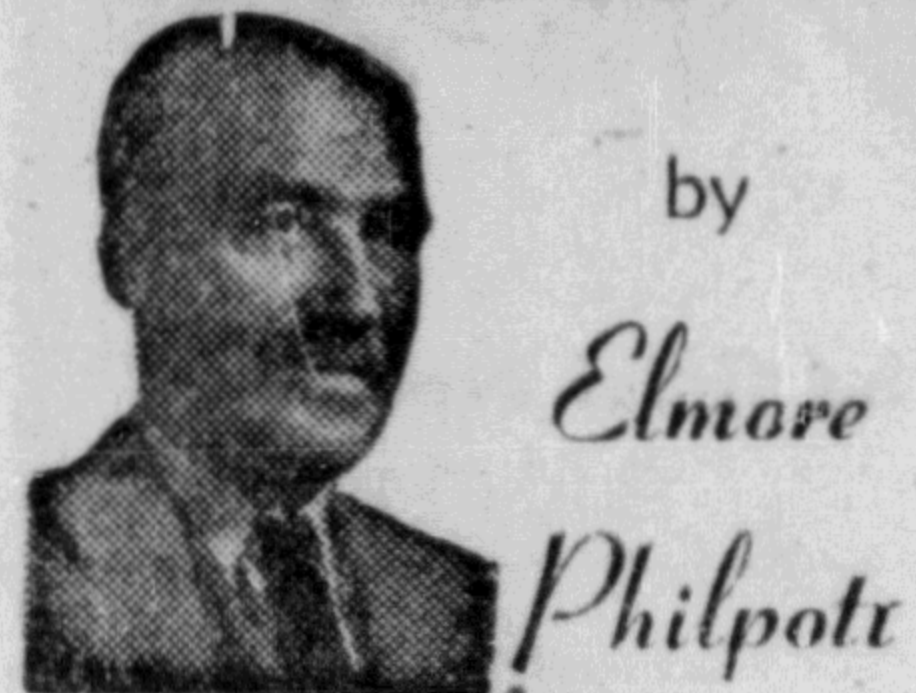
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As I See It



Right-Hand Man

WHEN C.D. Howe made the announcement of the building of the natural gas pipeline from near Calgary to Toronto and Montreal he received an ovation from the whole House that made even his granite-like countenance light up. He looked as pleased as a schoolboy, and I don't blame him.

I figure the construction of that pipeline will be as great a nation-building job as was even the building of the CPR. Among other things it will save this country vast amounts of money which we now spend on coal from the U.S.A. But apart altogether from that, it will literally transform for the better the winter living conditions in such places as northern Ontario.

HOWE will surely loom large in the future history of Canada, apart altogether from his notable achievements in the fields of business and engineering, as they tie in with national affairs.

Once again we see working out the inevitable pattern of Canadian affairs. This nation is a two-race state, and you cannot say that too often, for it is the most fundamental fact about all public life in Canada.

If you examine the Canadian Prime Ministers who succeeded you see that they never once did so while "going it alone." In fact, the most disastrous failure of a government that we ever had in Canada was under a man who was personally as capable a man as ever sat in the PM's seat. The late R. B. Bennett simply did not face the most elementary fact of life in Canadian politics. You can't work "one-man government" in a two-race nation.

THE GREAT Conservative MacDonald had Cartier as his French-Canadian partner. His success was solidly built on the partnership principle. Laurier had partners like Fielding and Graham. King had Lapointe—and at the very funeral of Lapointe he discussed the necessity of finding some outstanding French-Canadian to take Lapointe's place.

Louis St. Laurent was brought into the government for that very purpose—with results we all now know.

CLARENCE Decatur Howe will surely go down in history as the great English-speaking right hand man of Louis St. Laurent. He is as strange a type of public figure as he is a strong character. He breaks most of the rules that almost anybody would write in a book about "How to Be a Successful Politician."

He used to exasperate Mackenzie King, because he was at times too impatient to sit through a visit by some long-winded delegation. He has been known to get mad, and say cuss-words, right out loud.

Howe would be the first to admit that he has made some mistakes. But on balance he has probably contributed more to the material progress of this Canada than any man who has yet sat near any Prime Minister of Canada.

Costly Kindness

DUNNVILLE, Ont. (CP) — Austin Fortune slowed down his car to avoid hitting a cat on a snow-covered highway. The car skidded into the guardrails, and was damaged to the extent of \$200.

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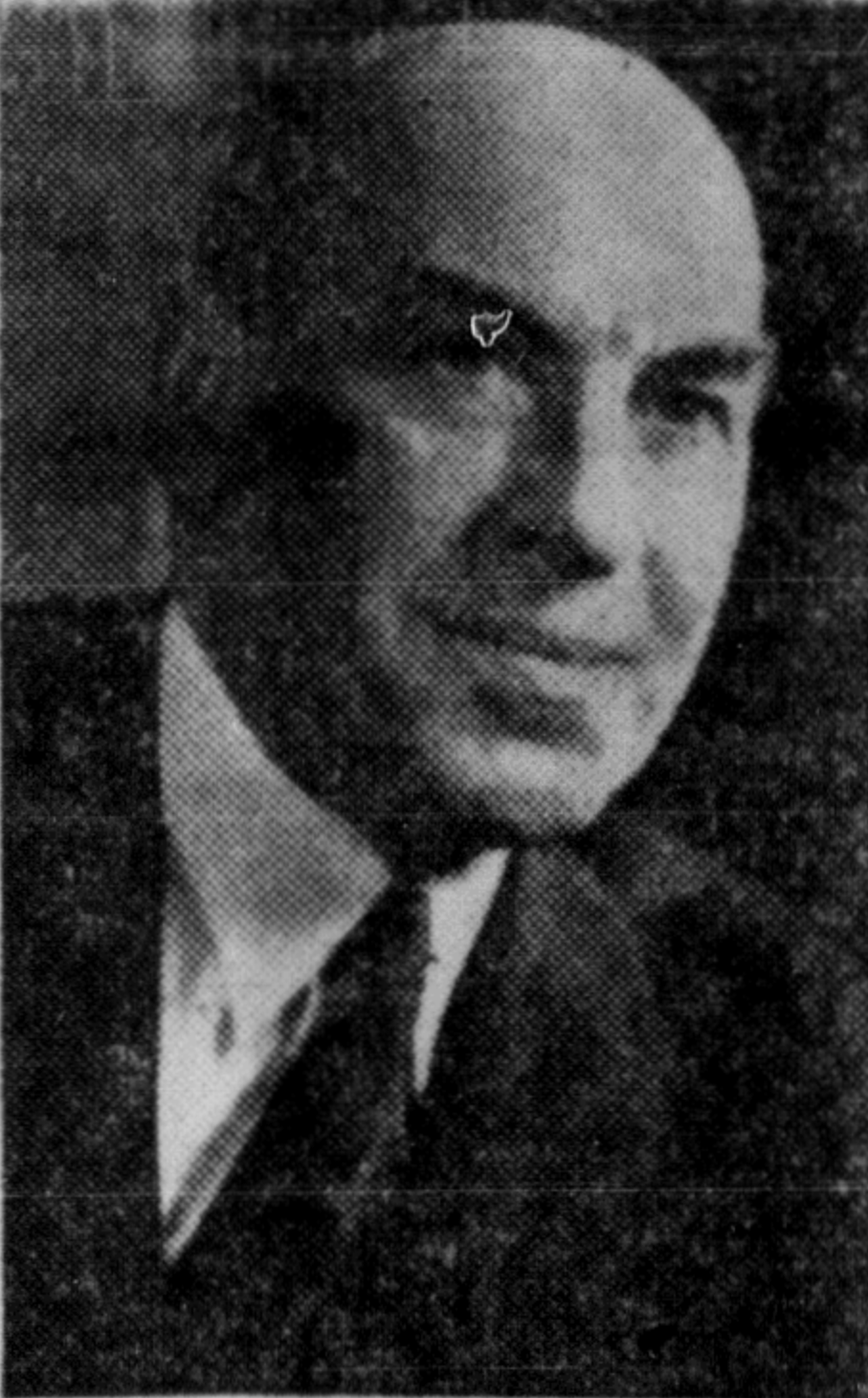
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T. H. ATKINSON has been elected vice-president of The Royal Bank of Canada. Mr. Atkinson has been general manager of the Bank since 1949 and will continue to serve in that capacity. He has been a director since 1952.

LETTERBOX

OVERLOOKED FACT

The Editor,

The Daily News:

May I, through the courtesy of your columns, make a reply to M. Wesley of Port Simpson.

My my, Mr. Wesley, how did you know and where did you learn of our deep, dark secret?

You know, you should be congratulated and quite proud of yourself. You may now take your place alongside Senator Joe McCarthy. He'll be pleased to have you as a colleague, I'm sure.

Your little diatribe against the late Mr. Albert Leighton, s.r., should not go unanswered. If, as you say, he could neither read nor write... that all or most of the Natives at that particular time were illiterate, not excluding M. Wesley's forefathers.

Your defamatory attack upon a man's good name, one who is no longer with us, is, to say the least, fatuous.

Do you also question Mr. Peter Leighton's honesty? I assure you that, if there was any doubt in his mind that the report was not authentic, then he would never have ratified it. However, since my uncle, Mr. Peter Leighton is still very much alive, he is quite capable of refuting any disparaging innuendoes cast his way.

HORACE LEIGHTON, Vancouver.

WE MAKE JOBS

The Editor,

The Daily News:

Re the letter in your paper of January 11, signed Mr. Johnston.

You state that the New Canadians take the jobs away from the Canadians.

I'm sure if you were living in Europe, as a civilian, during the war... no home, living in a hole with rats, nothing to eat, and if there was, standing in lines for days. I think Mr. Johnston, if you had experienced that, you'd look for a new country too.

The government lets us in this country as there are jobs, and we make jobs.

What attitude do you take Mr. Johnston? Please don't take it out on the new Canadians, take it up with the government.

It's time you forgot about your grudges of eight years ago. If you don't, we will never have peace in the world, and isn't that what this world is looking for today?

A NEW CANADIAN.

The Editor,

The Daily News:

The Native Brotherhood of B.C. welcomes the introduction of equal pay for equal work for women because for years our native net-women have received far inferior pay for equal work and in some cases for superior work. We are now within our rights to correct a long standing injustice.

On behalf of our native women net-workers, on the basis of appeals and recommendations during the year, we will be demanding equal pay for our women; equal to that received by the men doing the same type of work.

A. J. SCOW,

Acting Business Agent.



Compulsory Unionism Defeated in Sydney

B. LOUIS L. LECK
Canadian Press Correspondent

SYDNEY, Australia — Compulsory unionism, subject recently of the hottest Australian political rumpus in years, has had its first defeat.

A young Sydney woman who objected on religious grounds to joining a union has had her objection upheld by the New South Wales industrial registrar.

New South Wales legislation compelling adult workers to belong to a union was put through by the state Labor government in the face of strong opposition, some of it in Labor's own ranks.

The legislation became law in December and non-unionists were given 28 days to join, but the time limit is not being observed strictly by the government. Compulsory union has long been established in the neighboring state of Queensland.

ALL EMPLOYEES

The new law includes all employees whose work is covered by a New South Wales industrial award and some of the big unions expect to have a big increase in union fees. Critics of the measure have claimed that its main inspiration was the desire of the unions, translated into pressure on the government, to swell their funds and their power.

The critics are jubilant over the defeat of a federal Labor candidate in a by-election last month in a New South Wales country riding. In the campaign the non-Labor forces made "forced unionism" the big issue.

PROVIDED LOOPHOLE

The law always provided a loophole for people who object on religious grounds to being unionists. The first successful objection to the new act, therefore, was not remarkable. But it has stirred some uneasy feeling



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EVERYBODY WELCOME

Pastor: L. A. THORPE 629 Sixth Ave. E.

COST OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY

The information, as given below, covering costs to residential customers, has been obtained from the last certified yearly statements issued by the supply authorities listed:

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Supply	Location	Ave. K.W.H. Used per Month	Average Monthly Bill	Ave. Return K.W.H.
B.C. Power Commission	Alberni	206	\$5.05	2.1
" " "	Nanaimo-Duncan	192	4.95	2.1
" " "	Kamloops	177	5.15	2.1
" " "	North-Okanagan	158	4.85	3.3
B.C. Electric Co. Ltd.	Victoria	216	4.40	2.1
" " "	Vancouver	260	5.95	2.1
Northern B.C. Power Co. Ltd.	Prince Rupert	243	4.05	1.1

A quantity of electrical energy is sold in the City of Prince Rupert for domestic heating at a very low rate. This reduces the return received per K.W. Hr.

All other cities or districts included in the above table have a larger number of domestic consumers than are served in Prince Rupert.

Isolated bills for certain quantities of electricity used in various communities do not of a true comparison, as these can be shown to be either higher or lower to suit practically any opinion.

The only true comparison is on the average usage and the average return per unit of energy sold. These factors are determined from the total energy used and the total revenue received from certain classified groups of customers common to any community.

It is obvious from the above that residential consumers in the City of Prince Rupert get a lower rate, if not the lowest of any, in the Province of British Columbia.

Northern British Columbia Power Co. Ltd.



RIMBO, star tiger of the Krone Circus in Munich, thrills spectators with this startling leap over the head of V. Trubke through a papered hoop. The beast is always when he comes to this stunt, for it is the last on the program and it signals the end of the performance for him.

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