

Saturday, February 14, 1954
An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

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St. Valentine's
TOMORROW Dan Cupid will be on the wing, shooting out his arrows which are known for their stimulating effect on the heart.

Everyone likes to have little Dan around. He is not asking us to celebrate anything, but just to feel a little sentimental.

Just how the occasion of his visit came to be called St. Valentine's Day remains a mystery. Historians have tried in vain to trace it to one of the many holy men by that name.

Public Ownership
WHEN an industry is taken over by a government, it is said to be owned by the public, which means that the public will pay for any losses but will not necessarily share in any profits.

How this can work out was shown a couple of weeks ago in the House of Commons when a member of Parliament asked the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, for some information about Canadian National Railways.

If boredom threatens during one of these long winter evenings, we can spend a pleasant hour or two figuring out who got railroaded in this instance.—Saturday Night.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES
Saint Valentine's Day is February 14th and while this ancient and distinguished figure of the Roman calendar is said to have been martyred, juveniles of both sexes manage to extract no small degree of humor from the annual celebration.

SOME OTHER COLOR
According to a style expert, gray hair is really very becoming. Observes the Chatham News, it so happens that with a lot of men, gray hair is not coming—it's being going?

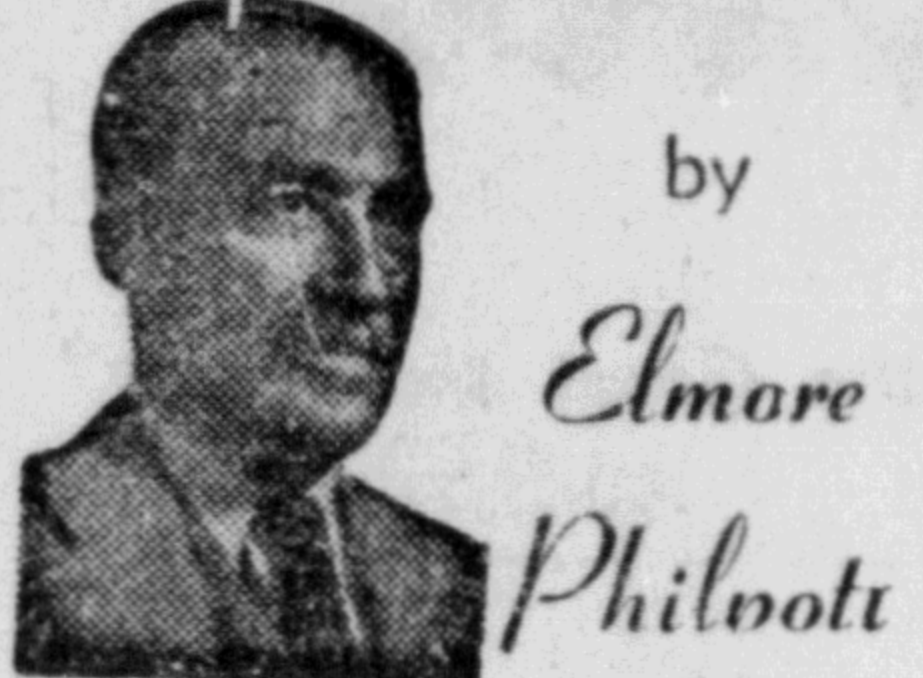
Next to being shot at and missed, there is nothing quite as satisfying as an income tax refund.

Plenty of us are reading where 75 per cent of Canadian homes have a washing machine, 60 per cent have a refrigerator, 50 per cent a vacuum cleaner and 37 per cent an electric stove.

It has been truly said that kindness is a language which the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

For the first time in the nation's history, a national fisheries fair will be held in Norway

As I See It



THE leader of the CCF asked the Minister of Justice a question, the other day, which sounded simple.

It was whether the government of Canada would refer to the Supreme Court the validity of the recent legislation passed by the Legislature of Quebec, and which concerned distribution of printed matter on the streets.

The Minister did not exactly sidestep the query. But his answer was of the diplomatic variety which conceals the gravity of what was mentioned.

NEARLY every newspaper in Canada has written on the importance of the Jehovah's Witnesses issue. This sect which opposes war, and all organized religion, has carried on a militant campaign against the Roman Catholic Church in the Province of Quebec.

In the famous decision the Supreme Court of Canada held that the provincial statutes, which had been used to arrest and imprison certain Witnesses, did not give the provincial authorities the extreme powers they had used.

The Winnipeg Free Press shows by what a narrow margin the Supreme Court ruled that the province had any such power to pass such drastic laws.

WHILE the argument of the Winnipeg Free Press seems to me as sound as it is powerful, I cannot agree that the remedy for the really grave situation is as the Manitoba paper suggests.

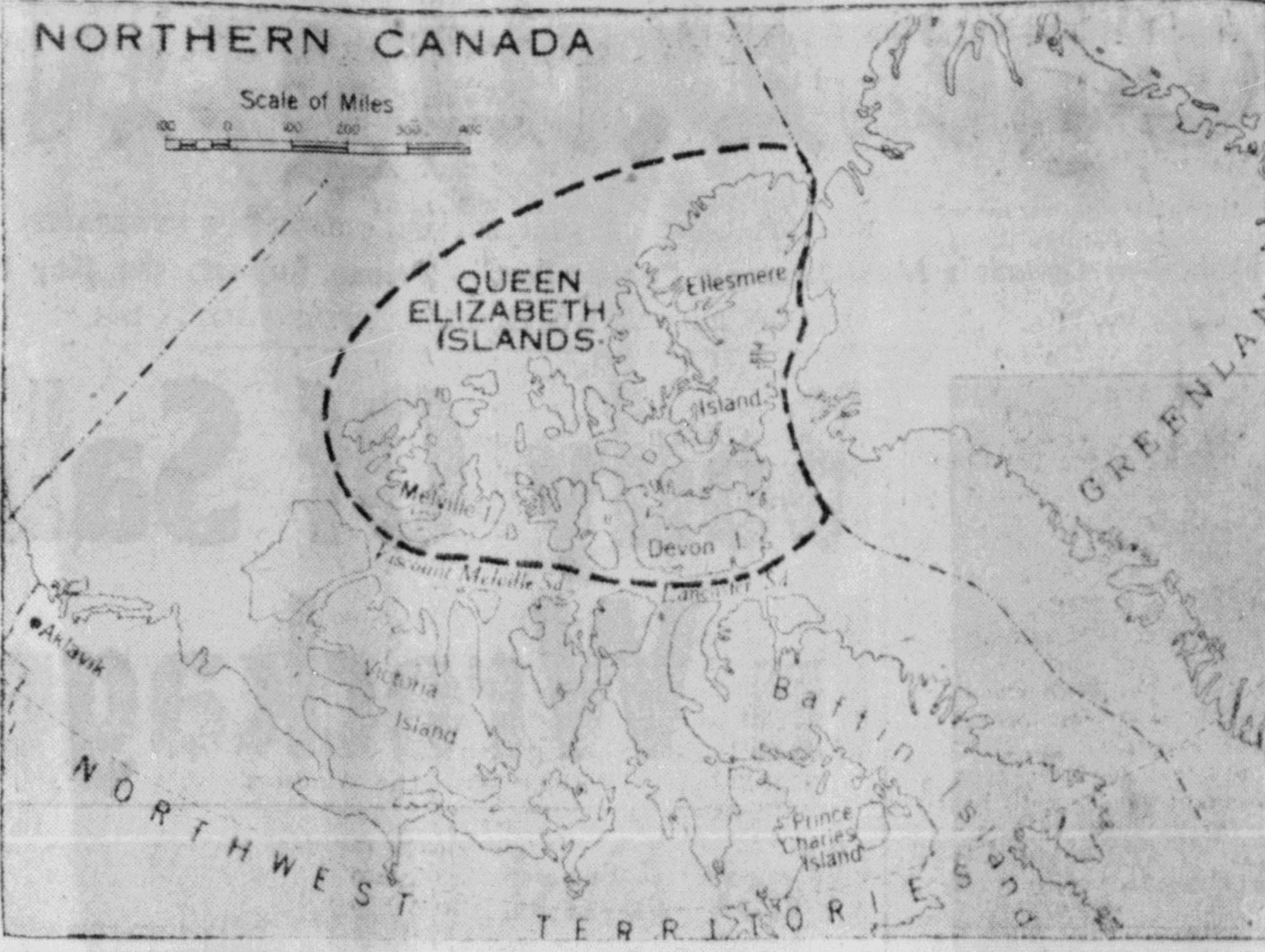
There could be no stronger case than is made out by the judgment... says the Winnipeg paper. But the real catch is that the Parliament of Canada could not of its own authority enact such a Bill of Rights which would take away one whit of the legal powers which the provinces now possess.

In other words, if the Parliament of Canada were to pass a Bill of Rights, without prior agreement with the provinces, including Quebec, the courts could rule the Bill of Rights invalid to the extent that it trespassed on provincial jurisdiction.

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THE NORTHERNMOST group of Arctic islands in Canada, shown in the dotted circle, has been named the Queen Elizabeth Islands. Northern Affairs Minister Lesage announced in the Commons that the Queen has allowed her name to be given to the northern half of the Canadian Arctic archipelago.

All Aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE
The makers of compound words are at their nasty work again. First they invented "smog" (mixed smoke and fog) and then "smaze" (smoky haze).

Now we have "smice." "Until the word was coined by a weather forecaster in Regina, smice was called ice fog," a news story says.

Who does this weather forecaster think he is, anyway? Where is his license for running a word-factory?

There is something about weather forecasting that turns a man's head, it seems. Once he starts hob-nobbing with warm fronts and mixing with isobars on equal terms, he gets feelings of superiority.

"Well, Henry," he says, "I think I'll invent a new word today." "Sure, boss," his assistant replies. "I'll take people's minds off those lousy forecasts we've been issuing lately."

"That's right. It means ice fog." "But if it's a mixture of ice and fog, shouldn't it be 'fice' boss? Or maybe 'ig'?"

"One more crack like that and you turn in your anemometer, and get your pay. There's no room for insubordination here."

"I didn't mean any harm, boss. It was only an idea. I think the new word is terrific, honestly. It should cause no end of confusion. Why, if you keep this up you'll have a whole new language."

The foregoing fragment of dialogue will give you an idea how these weathermen operate, when they start making words. They are getting out of control, that's all.

How would you like it if writers and newspapermen started trying to make their own weather? I have a good mind to pack my bag with a couple of Polar air masses, a tropical hurricane, a few isotherms and a bundle of cumulonimbus clouds, take the next plane for Regina, and dump the whole lot in your weather office, or weather. That will teach you to meddle with matters that you know nothing about.

Kootenays Expecting "New Era" After Record Construction Year

NELSON, B.C. (CP) — British Columbia's interior Kootenays district, home of Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company operations, is gearing itself for a large-scale industrial expansion in the face of slumping metal prices.

Disclosure that Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, Ltd., of Canada Cominco profits dropped in 1953 for the second straight year has coincided with reports of construction projects recently completed or under way.

Business men are confidently predicting "opening of a new era." This optimism is based on a booming construction program that saw more than \$42,000,000 worth of major projects started or completed during 1953 and the fact that the value of total production of agricultural, forestry and mining industries in the area continued near the \$200,000,000 mark despite a drop in lead and zinc prices.

Cominco sparked the construction drive with completion of a \$9,000,000 fertilizer plant near Kimberley and a 210,000-horsepower hydro-electric plant at Waneta, about 50 miles southeast of here.

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED
Other construction saw the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's \$850,000 briquette plant go into operation at Michel, near the Alberta-B.C. boundary; completion of the \$1,500,000 Canadian Pacific Railway's diesel maintenance plant here and East Kootenay Power Company's \$1,200,000 power and storage project on Fall River.

The construction boom was reflected in nearly every municipality in the 20,000-square-mile area with new buildings, tourist resorts, housing subdivisions and churches springing up.

The fall in base metal prices hit mining hard in the district. The number of mines in operation fell from 75 at the start of 1953 to 30 early this year, with a resultant drop from 1,500 to 650 in the number of men employed.

However, mining authorities say this picture has been largely offset by discovery of new lead-zinc deposits with reserves running into millions of tons.

Lead-zinc production in 1953 dropped to \$80,100,000, compared with \$105,126,348 in 1952. The lumbering industry maintained a \$25,941,196 pace last

67-Year-Old Railway Retains Five-Cent Fare

NEW YORK (AP)—Got a nickel? Want to go somewhere? You still can—provided you want to travel from Biddeford, Me., to Saco, Me., or vice versa.

The nickel fare is a memory in most cities. Transit companies tell you, and offer statistics if you question them, that operating costs are way up yonder.

But in Maine, the Biddeford and Saco Railroad Company still operates on a five-cent fare. "The only one left in the country," says president J. Burton Stride.

It started 67 years ago with two-horse, open-car, four-wheeled conveyances. In 1891 it changed to electric trams, and in 1939 to buses. But all that time it has stayed loyal to the lowly nickel.

By Norman M. MacLeod
The flow of news across Parliament Hill during the past week or so has been emphasizing to the M.P.'s in a particularly forceful and realistic way the new sort of competitive world in which 20th Century Canada is living.

Since Parliament has been concerned mainly with routine, most of the interest has been centering in the conference of the Big Four in Berlin. Tabling of the year's estimates, with their increase of more than \$50,000,000 over last year's figure, was a timely reminder of the stake which this country has in a settled world and peaceful diplomacy.

The news from the Berlin meeting wasn't regarded as too hopeful by Parliament's experts on foreign affairs. Some satisfaction was expressed in the fact that the four powers at last were sitting down around the same table. But underneath that limited foundation for hope, there was the uneasy fear that they were meeting simply to disagree.

And that prospect was faced as a doubtful improvement over the previous situation. But the most depressing feature of the news in the minds of the M.P.'s during the week was the word from Moscow that Isvestia, the official Soviet news organ, had published two articles dealing with progress in the perfection of atomic weapons.

The articles were at least mildly blood-chilling. The minimum inference which they suggested was that the present was no time for the Western powers to relax the intensity of their military atomic research.

With Canada a major partner in Western democracy's atomic research, this situation has more than a little infernal quality. For at the present time, the Canadian atomic program is hesitating a bit between courses. Hitherto the program has been targeted on supplying the munitions parent easing of diplomatic tensions, there has been no direct economic use. As a fact, the fear has been on Parliament Hill that Canada concentrate on industrial atomic research, find herself outstripping industrial field in the years, with nuclear power placing steam and electricity a source of cheap power.

So there you have it, neglects military search at the risk of industrial atomic research of her economy, state faces between industrial competition, one fraught with greater than any previous simple past.

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