

Prince Rupert Daily News

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Let's Have Vancouver's Nerve

HOW important an airport is to a city these days may be judged from the fact that Vancouver is now after its second. Apparently not finding the spacious Sea Island field sufficient, the Board of Trade is considering construction of one off Spanish Banks.

Its ambitions are by no means modest. Built on tidal flats, the airport would require a vast system of breakwaters and extensive landfilling operations. The planning board admits that, without a great deal of help from the federal government, costs probably would be prohibitive.

Vancouver's bold approach is a lesson to those here who mutter fearfully about the difficulties of putting an airport on Digby Island. If Vancouver, which already has the most up-to-date flying facilities, has the nerve to ask that an airfield be built in the ocean, surely Prince Rupert, which has nothing, should not feel it is too demanding in proposing that one be constructed on somewhat mucky ground.

No doubt any additional flying space in the Vancouver area would be intended primarily for private planes and other small operations which tend to interfere with the important commercial traffic. What a different situation we have here! Just a single airstrip would at once be a boon to flying in every category. Far from being merely a sportsman's luxury, it could change the whole map of northwest flying operations, to say nothing of filling a gap in our coastal defence.

If Vancouver gets a spanking new airport on Spanish Banks to serve its amateur fliers, we are going to be poor relatives indeed as we trudge through the bush to climb aboard our jitney-service helicopter.

As Others See Us

CANADIANS will be interested to learn the truth about their country as affirmed by no less an authority than the Soviet Encyclopedia, an official publication of the Soviet government of Russia. The encyclopedia has sixteen pages of letter press on Canada.

The "true state of affairs" in Canada, says the encyclopedia, is that "the rights of Canadian citizens are grossly broken up by police repression directed mainly against workers and progressives."

It proceeds: "Included in the British Empire, Canada is in fact in considerably greater dependence on the monopolists of the United States. The system of government reproduces the most reactionary features of the state order of the United States and England. The Canadian senate is a most reactionary institution consisting of representatives of big capital. Election rights are based on racial, religious and property discrimination. Very often most important state decisions are taken by the Canadian prime minister and cabinet without prior consultation with the house of commons, which later gives formal sanction." —The Winnipeg Free Press

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

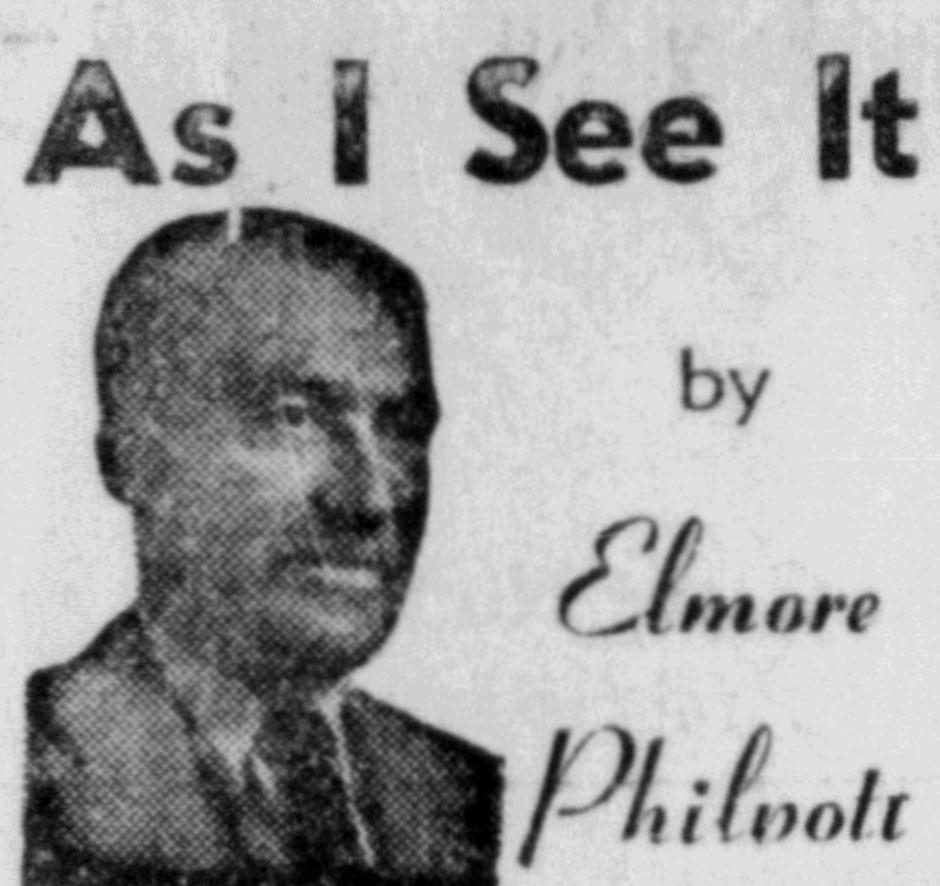
No less than 462 applications recent appointed to the Senate for divorce have been filed so from British Columbia. One of far this session with Parliament, the most versatile recruits to That is an all-time record figure. the thinning ranks of the Upper House in a long time, Mrs. Hodges is noted for having combined successfully over her lifetime the often conflicting and always exacting careers of housewife, journalist and legislator.

She became the first woman Speaker in British legislative history when she was elected to the Speaker's chair in the British Columbian legislature in 1949. She was for 26 years women's editor of the Victoria Daily Times and continued to write a daily column for that paper up to her appointment to the Senate. At the time of her retirement as columnist she had written a total of 2,550 daily columns. When she announced that she was laying down her pen, her fan mail greatly exceeded by a wide margin the number of columns she had written.

One of the most frequent criticisms of the Senate divorce committee through the years has been its lack of a woman member. That defect now is remedied, and the individual selected is a thoroughly forceful and competent personality. Parliamentary observers are watching with interest, in consequence, to see what effect the woman's touch is going to have on the granting of divorces.

Incidentally, the Senate Committee which sits upon the divorce applications to Parliament is being watched this year with unusual interest. The reason is the presence on the committee, for the first time since Confederation, of a woman member.

She is Hon. Nancy Hodges,



P.M. In India

PRIME Minister St. Laurent has scored a marked success in India on one point.

He has stated, in the most clear-cut terms, that Canada has no fear of "American imperialism." This country has lived for over a century side by side with a big neighbor whom we have found to be the finest in the world. No doubt, neither the U.S.A. nor Canada finds the other a perfect neighbor. There are frictions and annoyances. But on the whole our border remains the friendliest in the world. Nobody in this country has serious doubts that it will fail to remain that way.

Even on the ticklish question of American aid to Pakistan our Prime Minister has been forthright. Regardless of what his earlier preferences may have been, Canada's Prime Minister makes it clear this country has no objection to the mutual assistance. Had Mr. St. Laurent taken any stand it would simply have made relations between India and Pakistan much worse.

WHILE Mr. St. Laurent's trip has been a marked success in this one respect, it cannot be said that it has so far succeeded so well in North America.

The Montreal Gazette recently expressed the glaring misunderstanding of the main purpose behind our PM's trip in a truly absurd cartoon. The picture shows our Prime Minister holding out a huge rifle and bayonet and trying to convince a reluctant looking gentleman, with folded arms, marked "Neutral Nehru," that "it isn't enough just to hope that lightning won't strike."

The intention of the cartoon was no doubt good enough. But if the Communists in India are as cunning as they are in every other country they could not do better than to reprint thousands of copies of that picture to suggest to the impoverished people of India that the purpose of our Prime Minister's trip was to sign up an important country for another white man's war.

The Indian who saw that reprinted cartoon would not have the opportunity of reading the full edition of the Montreal Gazette (February 24), which on another page carried a cable from India beginning:

"NEW DELHI, February 23 (CP)—Prime Minister St. Laurent, in his speech to the Parliament of India, said today: Canada does not question India's policy of steering a middle path between the western powers and the Communist world."

I MYSELF have heard the Prime Minister of India explain India's world position time and again.

What I heard him say, both in the Parliament of India and to vast masses of the people of India, was that India believes the automatic lining up with one or other of the two rival world blocs would have the effect—not of stopping war between them—but of making it much more probable.

IF THE PRESENT regime in India should fall, Communism would not need to sweep in from Russia or China. Within a short time all India would inevitably go Communist. Mr. Nehru probably believes that his government would fall if he lined up, as Pakistan has done, with the U.S.A. I am not suggesting, of course, that that is the main reason why Mr. Nehru, and the Congress Party, refuse to do any such thing. But it is a reminder of the folly of most of the North American critics of what is mis-called "India's neutrality."

Normally the peak of divorce in Canada has occurred in the past after periods of war. Absence of husbands on prolonged periods of overseas service apparently imposes too great a strain on many marriage ties. But the peak of Parliamentary divorce after World War II came in 1950 with a total of just 350 applications to the Senate Divorce Committee. Since that year the decline has been steady—until this year's sudden bulge in the statistics.

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SLIGHT CHANCE OF A RESURRECTION—By Robert W. Chambers in Halifax Herald.

Bank Letter Stresses Importance Of American Pulp, Paper Market

MONTREAL—The importance of the United States market in determining the continued prosperity of the Canadian pulp and paper industry, is stressed by the Bank of Montreal in the February issue of its Business Review, released today.

Pointing out that it is in newsprint where the industry scores over the rest of the 32 countries which produce it, the review notes that the U.S. Canada's biggest customer, absorbs more than all the rest of the world, and last year took 85 percent of Canada's exports.

The U.S. it points out, uses 76.3 pounds of newsprint per capita annually, compared to 51.1 pounds in Canada, 32.2 in the U.K., and 4 in India. It has been estimated that one half of the world's people use an average of less than five pounds per year, which leads the review to assume that an increase in literacy and living standards could produce "an enormous expansion in demand and would, in fact, require large additional

sources of supply."

The review does caution that it would hardly be justifiable to assume that the trend of production in the past years, moving from a condition of short supply to a state of equilibrium, will serve as a gauge of growth for the years to come. It adds, however, that there is no reason to suppose that potential markets are close to being filled.

Contributing to the industry's magnitude and success are the size and availability of suitable wood resources, the presence in large volume of clean water for the manufacturing process, the plentiful and convenient supply of hydro-electric power, and the proximity of the U.S. market for the major products.

DEMANDS INCREASING

The review goes on to give a detailed breakdown of the annual average disappearance of wood from the forests between 1940 and 1949, and points out that while demands are increasing, it has been held that by close regulation, supervision and co-operation between governments and industry, by use of more types of available wood and by persistent efforts to minimize hazards, Canadian forests can support forest industries at their present levels indefinitely, and even allow a considerable degree of expansion.

Taking a glimpse at the provinces, the review records that Quebec leads the industry, having produced 49 per cent of all Canadian paper in 1952. Ontario, which in the same year produced 27 per cent, is second, and British Columbia (eight per cent), third.

The review concludes: "Because of proximity, if for no other reason, the near-term future of Canadian pulp and paper is likely to be determined primarily by trends of demand in the United States. Even if per capita consumption should tend to level out, increasing population could swell the demand in that country alone sufficiently to provide a further stimulus to the Canadian industry."



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Ray Reflects and Reminiscences

Life doesn't consist in what a man possesses, but in what possesses him.—Galt Reporter.

Should there be life on other planets, there remains the question as to how much time they devote to ways of destroying life.

Who can remember when families bought winter apples by the box? They would keep them, too?

Some western cities have caught up with the showing. Like when the Moose Jaw Times, the other day, Brown awoke to find at her bedside. She got shave and screamed.

Telegrams and messages from all parts of the world continued to pour in, greeting the pontiff and expressing wishes for his full recovery from the stomach ailment that has confined him to his apartment for 36 days.

Vatican sources said this morning that his improvement of the last few days continues.

In Rome's St. Mary Major basilica, the world's oldest shrine to the Virgin Mary—where the Pope said his first mass 54 years ago—thousands attended a solemn mass this morning for his recovery.

Most heartening news of his ailment was given Monday by the Vatican newspaper, l'Osservatore Romano, which described his general condition as "good."

Considerable time is needed yet for the pontiff's cure, it is added.



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The Gnat and the Bull

A GNAT alighted on one of the horns of a Bull, and remained sitting there for a considerable time. When it had rested sufficiently and was about to fly away, it said to the Bull, "Do you mind if I go now?" The Bull merely raised his eyes and remarked, without interest, "It's all one to me; I didn't notice when you came, and I shan't know when you go away."

MORAL: A person of substance isn't easily bothered by trifles. That's why so many substantial citizens from coast to coast maintain savings accounts with The Canadian Bank of Commerce. Why not follow their example? Open a savings account with our nearest branch today . . . add to it regularly . . . and as your balance grows, you, too, will be able to ignore little worries and enjoy life more.

Illustration by Arthur Rackham, from the Heinemann Edition of Aesop's Fables.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce