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New Budget

MAYOR Hills' decisive move to clear up the board of works mess did not come a moment too soon. With a price tag on it of \$172,367 in the new budget, this board has no place for brawling. That figure represents close to 65 per cent of the proposed sum to be raised by taxes. The money has sweat on it and demands the best.

The mayor was in a tough spot, as most of Prince Rupert was aware, and it might be argued that much of his trouble was self-imposed. But it is hoped now that his firm action will give the important board of works plain sailing ahead.

The budget itself is evidence again that the city has a long way to go before it can start giving attention in earnest to its recreational facilities. The total amount budgeted for parks and the Civic Centre is more than \$8,000 below what the parks board considered was necessary for its requirements alone.

While it is unfortunate that the parks program cannot be pressed with more vigor, this should not be done at the expense of essential projects, and the mill rate could hardly stand any more stretching.

The plight of the parks is considerably offset by the improved outlook for the Civic Centre through an annual grant of \$6,000, compared to \$1,800 in the past. Without such support, the Centre would be in real danger of closing down. If this happened, the city would lose an asset which is becoming more valuable all the time.

It is encouraging to think that the time is close at hand when Prince Rupert will have paid off the debt it incurred to stay in business. This will remove much of the pressure under which the finance committee has to operate. It must be realized, however, that if the city is ever to catch up to itself in such pressing matters as the replacement of its public buildings, the laying of roads and sidewalks and the installation of improved waterworks, it will have to borrow more.

It is not too optimistic to believe that, when that day comes, Prince Rupert will appeal to financiers as a sound investment.

Industrial School Blamed For Crime

VANCOUVER (C)—Magistrate Lionel Beaver-Potts of Nanaimo said that intolerable conditions at the Coquitlam Boys' Industrial School are to blame for

the increase of juvenile crime in the province.

Magistrate Beaver-Potts, one of 125 delegates in Vancouver to attend the fourth annual magistrates' convention, said he has allowed youths to remain at large on probation rather than send them to the industrial school.

In an interview, the magistrate said young boys who are thrown in with hardened criminals return home often much worse than before.

Juvenile crime at Nanaimo, he said, was at present far higher than it had been for many years and has increased greatly in the last few weeks.

NAVAL VISIT

First British naval craft to visit Esquimalt, B.C., was HMS Constance in 1948.



As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Reply To Sun

It seems like old times to have the Vancouver Sun taking a good lusty crack at me. In the past few years the editor of the Sun and I have found ourselves in agreement so often that we both must have suspected somebody was slipping.

The occasion for the Sun's crack at myself is a recent column in which I refused to go along with a proposal to renege on the government's promise to earmark the fifteen per cent excise tax on radio and TV sets for the use of the CBC.

IT SHOULD be noted that neither the editor of the Sun nor myself is bothered too much about the tax itself. As a matter of fact, the rate is in line with that paid on a long list of commodities and utilities, including automobiles.

The argument concerns the process of handing over this large sum to the CBC, for use by the CBC. It seems to me that we have to remember why this was done.

All down over the years the CBC was financed, in theory at least, by a direct license fee paid by the users of radio sets. This fee was a nuisance tax, if there ever was one. It was extremely costly to collect. There was a long drawn out agitation to have it abolished.

If my memory serves me correctly, both the editor of the Sun, as well as yours truly, added their voices to the demand for the ending of that tax. But once that tax was ended some alternate means of support had to be found for the CBC.

It must be remembered that the CBC has never been considered a department of the government. The law which set up the CBC, and which still governs all radio broadcasting in Canada, very carefully to keep the CBC from becoming just another department of the government. All the parties in Parliament have always felt that such a move would be a backward, and indeed dangerous, step. For once the CBC became just another department of the government it would be difficult, and probably impossible, to prevent the CBC from becoming just a propaganda agency for the administration of the day, in the same sense that the radio system of the police states became abject and servile agencies of the dictators.

WHEN Parliament abolished the license fee it earmarked the excise tax for CBC purposes.

Due to the amazingly swift sale of TV sets in Canada, this

revenue has been a great deal more than was expected. Mr. Abbott estimates the CBC income from the excise tax as running to \$24.8 million this year. True, that is a lot of money, but what would be gained by arbitrarily interfering with the arrangement already made?

The CBC requires a very large sum of money to get TV stations and its transmission system established from coast to coast. Moreover, it is fixed government policy—and policy endorsed by Parliament—that the CBC should establish its TV stations from coast to coast before competitive licenses are granted in the main centres, such as Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal.

The danger I see in the Sun's proposal, to backtrack on the promise already made to the CBC, would be this:

The rate of construction of the CBC TV stations would be slowed down. And because that rate of construction was slowed down the day would be postponed when we can get really competitive TV service in such cities as Vancouver.

We need three or four competing TV stations in and around Vancouver. We need similar competition right across the country. In each of these centres the CBC will have a first class station. We ought to see that those stations are the best that money can buy—and that the service is maintained at a high level.

It seems to me that the Sun editorial campaign re TV and the CBC in Canada is moving in two contradictory directions. Its campaign against the 15% excise tax, awarded to sustain the CBC, is tending to delay its own objective on the more important level. That is, of course, to end the CBC monopoly, and to get real live competition in TV in Canada.

Fills Vacancy

STOCKHOLM (C)—Sweden has accepted a Soviet request to act as protective power for Russia in Australia, since diplomatic relations between Russia and Australia were severed over the Petrov incident. Envoy Otto Johansson, who was in charge of Persia's interests in Britain during the Anglo-Iranian dispute, left by air for Canberra.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

If you see a Cabinet Minister going around Parliament Hill talking to himself these days, you may conclude without further ado that he is Hon. Robert Winters, Minister of Public Works.

Hon. "Bob" really has something to talk to himself about. He is under strong pressure from the folks back home to return to his native Nova Scotia and assume the premiership left vacant there by the late Angus L. Macdonald. But he also is under no less strong pressure from his Liberal colleagues in Ottawa to stay around Parliament Hill and carry on the excellent work he has been doing in the Public Works portfolio.

If by no stretch of the imagination could Hon. "Bob's" problem be called a Hobson's choice—both posts are high up on the plum tree of politics—that fact doesn't make decision any less difficult. For Hon. "Bob" is one of the serious-minded, ultra-conscientious people in politics. He clearly wants to pick the spot in which he figures he can render the greater public service. And that's not an easy matter to decide.

It is widely recognized that in his recent switch to the Public Works job the Nova Scotian Minister felt heir to a highly unsatisfactory situation which demanded a clean-up. Administration had grown lax. Petty irregularities—such as charwomen subletting their jobs and collecting a percentage of the pay of the woman who actually

did the work—abounded. The miracle was that the Conservative and CCF oppositions in Parliament apparently hadn't got wind of conditions. If they had, they would have found some first-class political ammunition. In the few months he has been on the job, Hon. "Bob" has been carrying out a really effective clean-up. Abuses have been remedied and the guilty dismissed from the public service. Laxity and inefficiency have been uprooted wherever they were met. Among the more drastic changes in personnel was even the retirement of an Assistant Deputy Minister some years before his normal retirement time.

The situation has been so well handled, in brief, that Hon. "Bob's" prestige has soared spectacularly. Veterans around Parliament Hill are recognizing him as one of the most promising younger members of the Cabinet, whose brilliant future is assured if he remains around these parts. There is even talk now that he might well figure in the party leadership race, when and if Rt. Hon. Mr. St. Laurent retires.

It's a highly tempting picture. But so is the Premiership job in Nova Scotia and he apparently can have it if he will only say the word. And Hon. "Bob" Winters' heart has never strayed far from his native province. To many of his colleagues here it won't be surprising if he yields to the pressure to go back home.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

It's not exactly coincidence that Canada's Governor General found himself in Washington, as a guest, a day or so before the United States joined Ottawa, thus linking the St. Lawrence with the Great Lakes, an action of great importance.

Usually the individual who finds it impossible to tell or find out where his next dollar is coming from, also does not know where his last one wandered to. The main point is he doesn't know and has a notion it's going to stay that way.

It is almost always the case that a bitter argument can develop among a group of Canadians where the point at issue is the size of the dining room. But then practically all eat in the kitchen.

Some young women, and others who look a bit different are said to be eternally on the lookout for a man with a ring in his voice.

People who try to do something for the world are invariably tedious. The really pleasant folk are those who have managed to persuade the world to do something for them.

Three masked men, carrying guns, robbed a bank of \$10,000 in New Westminster around a week ago. Since then, it seems the grand total has grown to \$21,000. Of course, when anyone is enduring a state of excitement, his counting becomes subject to error. This, one assumes, might be recognized in court.

Musical instinct starts in children at an early age—and ends the day you make the down payment on a piano.

After all is said and done, more is usually said than done.

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Yielding about 3.31% to maturity
Principal and interest payable in lawful money of Canada. Principal payable at any agency of Bank of Canada. Interest payable at any branch in Canada of any chartered bank without charge. The bonds will be dated and bear interest from 1st June, 1954.
Bonds may be registered as to principal or as to principal and interest. Definitive bonds of this issue will be available on or about 1st June and thereafter in two forms: bearer form with coupons attached (this form may be registered as to principal) and fully registered form with interest payable by cheque. Bonds of both forms will be in the same denominations and fully interchangeable as to denomination and/or form without charge (subject to Government transfer requirements where applicable).
This Loan is authorized under authority of an Act of the Parliament of Canada and both principal and interest are a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada. The proceeds of this Loan will be used by the Government to refund the Third Victory Loan called for redemption on 1st June, 1954, in the amount of \$855,607,410.
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The Minister of Finance reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any subscription for either maturity or both.
The books of the Loan will open on 13th May, 1954 and will close in either maturity or both with or without notice at the discretion of the Minister of Finance.
OTTAWA, 10TH MAY, 1954.