

Wednesday, March 4, 1953

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

A Costly Strike

THOUSANDS of dollars are being lost daily as the strike of grain workers continues in Vancouver and New Westminster. Five elevators in the two cities have been idle now for 17 days.

Twelve ships are anchored in the harbor, and still there are no signs of a settlement.

The grain handlers, members of the Grain Elevator Workers' Union (CIO), went on strike February 16 to back up demands for a 12 1/2-cent increase over their present wage of \$1.50 an hour.

In effect the strike has virtually tied up the majority of export grain shipments out of British Columbia. There are small elevators working in North Vancouver, Victoria and here in Prince Rupert, but they only handle a fraction of the millions of bushels of wheat exported from British Columbia during the crop year.

Meanwhile, J. L. Phelps, chairman of the Prairie Interprovincial Farm Union Council, is attempting to get mediation started through the federal Department of Labor.

Owners of the idle ships estimate costs at between \$1,000 and \$1,200 a day. The union claimed last week that the railways—Canadian National and Canadian Pacific—and the elevator companies are losing \$500,000 a week by the strike.

Seven ships at anchor in Vancouver harbor are costing their owners upwards of \$1,000 a day in wages, cost of general upkeep, feeding the complement, heating and other costs. Some ships tied up at docks are paying another \$150 a day berthing charges.

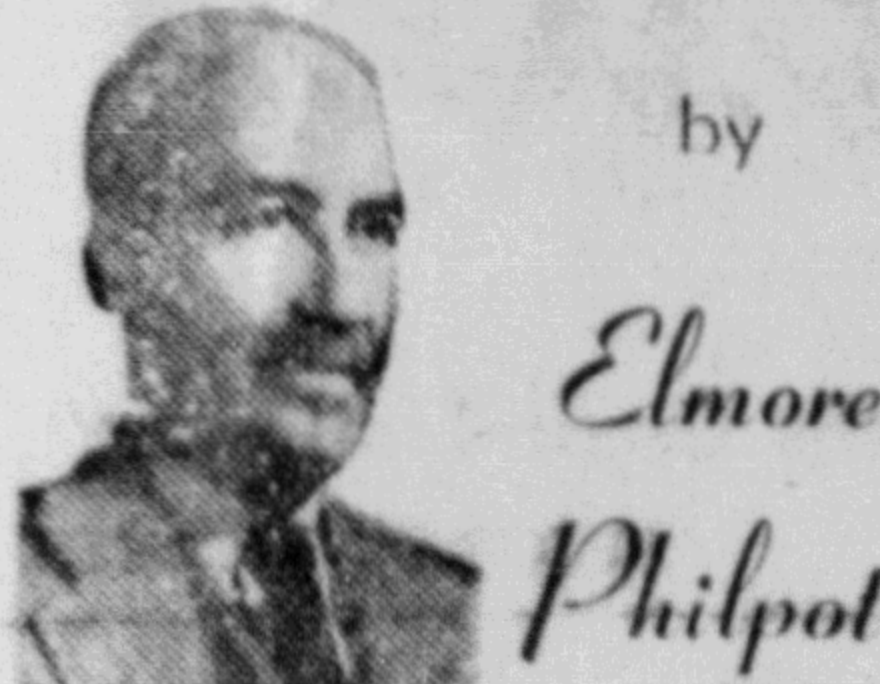
Union spokesmen and agents of the elevator companies say there is "no change" in the strike picture.

At this time last week hopes for an early settlement were high. The union accepted the offer of Mr. Phelps to mediate the dispute. But nothing has happened.

The strikebound elevators are: United Grain Growers Ltd., Alberta Wheat Pool, Pacific Elevators and Kerr-Gifford in Vancouver, and Searle Grain in New Westminster.

More than 8,000,000 bushels of grain are tied up in the elevators.

As I See It



New EP Radio Job

ON MONDAY night, March 2, I started a regular radio news series.

It will mean that in addition to the six columns per week I write for this space, I shall be talking on the news for three stints of about fifteen minutes apiece.

It looks as if there would be quite a lot to talk about this year, with two elections, the Cold War getting hotter, the Coronation, and, I hope, Lester Pearson's elevation as permanent Secretary-General of UN.

A YOUNG fellow wrote me not long ago and said he wanted to be a newspaper columnist. How should he go about it? Should he go to university or not—and so forth?

I told him nobody could advise him how to become a newspaper columnist, because we are an aggregation of freaks, flukes. Some are born columnists, some acquire columns, and some have columns thrust upon them.

The secret, my friend, is not how to get the job but how to hold it. And the secret of that only sounds simple—hold your readers.

HERE IN Vancouver we have set the Canadian pace for columnists, as for many things.

For my money the best columnist there ever was in these parts died before my time here—the late Bob Bouchette. I pasted one of his Armistice Day columns in my scrap book only yesterday. It must have been written around 1929, but even now would almost bring tears to the eyes of a human one. Yet it packed a punch like a fist-sized atom bomb.

THERE ARE important differences between writing for newspapers and talking over the radio. The press effect is, I think, more widespread, lasting and deep. People can read what is printed whenever they feel like it. They can check and re-read it. It has a more powerful emotional effect.

The radio transmits far more of the personality of the speaker. But it is far more subject to mistake. In the years I did war commentaries for the CBC I have heard folks blast me over the telephone—only to find they had tuned in half way through the talk and so missed the first half, which vastly changed the total picture.

BUT IN the very first radio talk I ever gave in 1928 there was pathos and a little laugh. I was associate editor of the Toronto Globe at the time, and we were raising a fund to relieve unemployed Welsh coal miners. I gave a little talk—and George Cohan, a cute looking actress from New York, went on right after me to sing: "I Can't Give You Anything but Love, Baby."

The saddest talk I ever gave was the night Franklin Roosevelt died. The best prepared talk was the night of the allied landing in Normandy. I had carried that script around for three whole months. But during that night I made twenty extra commentaries.

Wintergreen, slender creeping aromatic plant, is a common feature of the northern woods of Canada.

Advertisement for Colman's Mustard, featuring a picture of a mustard jar and the text 'This Butterless LEMON MUSTARD SAUCE'.

Advertisement for Colman's Mustard, featuring a picture of a mustard jar and the text 'LEMON MUSTARD SAUCE'.



R. K. SANDWELL, veteran writer and editor, with "Sir Galahad" by the Ottawa sculptor Robert Norgate, one of three Canadian sculptors chosen to represent Canada at the international sculpture competition to be judged in London in March.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

During the past week in the course of the budget debate Finance Minister Abbott and Defence Production Minister Howe have teamed up to explain an apparent situation arising out of the budget which was causing thoughtful observers here no little worry.

The anxiety all stemmed from the review of economic conditions which the Finance Minister gave. Two facts of key significance stood out in that survey. The first was that the prosperity of 1951 had been supported by a boom in inventories totalling close to one and one-half billion dollars and arising out of the stock-piling program of the defence authorities.

But at the present time the Defence Department's stock-piling policy is completed for all practical purposes. Purchases under it in the year ahead will be little more than nominal.

Similarly, something more than the edge was taken off the public's appetite for consumer goods in last year's buying boom. To expect retail sales to hold indefinitely at the 1952 tempo would be unrealistic.

The point that was worrying Parliament Hill economists who made this analysis was the source from which support for the economy was going to come throughout 1953. Was it not apparent that some measure of recession must be anticipated?

USEFUL COURSE

CALGARY (CP) — The fire department plans special courses to teach baby sitters what to do in case of fire. Certificates will be presented to the baby-sitters who complete the course which stresses evacuation of children from burning homes.

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

During times of prosperity, a lot of economists are of opinion that we should save for a rainy day. But more feel it's always possible to borrow an umbrella.

Another of the fellows who wrote the song hits of the First Great War has gone forever. This time he's Fred Godfrey, composer of "Take Me Back to Dear Old Bliedie." It had the same mysterious "something" that gave power to "Tipperary," "Pack Up Your Troubles" and airs that take a long time to die.

As far back as 1909 tales were told of a mountain of gold near Stewart, and stamperders from as far away as England headed this way. At Prince Rupert they would not stray any distance from the boat for fear of missing it. There's all sorts of metal, but only one called precious.

There are thousands of museums in all parts of the globe, some invaluable. It has taken time, of course. But think of the world today, without any. It would be exactly that, had people, down through the ages, remained indifferent.

Overall wages in Ontario increased 150 per cent since 1939, or in actual figures assessed on living costs 51 per cent increase. Population is growing at the rate of 160,000 a year, which means that a new town like Orillia or Barrie is springing up every 30 days. This is Canada's century, predicted Laurier. Why not?

SEEKING THE WORLD — Gentlemen! The Royal Canadian Navy. Every evening the radio invites you to join. See the world. Early in life draw a pension, possess a trade and a training. Young fellow, you could do a lot worse.

From where I'm sitting, tolerance is just a big word for peace. War can't get going where there's a sympathetic understanding of nation for nation, man for man and creed for creed.—Bing Crosby.

JUST A BIG WORD

Numerous are new dwellings out Eleventh Avenue way. Own-

Advertisement for Dibb Printing Company, featuring a picture of a printing press and the text 'For the Finest in Office Supplies SEE DIBB PRINTING COMPANY'.

MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today — The Board of Works, in reply to a petition from property-owners in Section Two, are reported to be in favor of completing a temporary bridge over Morse Creek.

Starting today the public schools will open at nine o'clock instead of 9:30.

30 Years Ago Today — On a motion by C. H. Orme, seconded by J. Scott, a resolution was passed by the Board of Trade to request the appointment of a foreign freight agent at this port in view of the development of foreign shipping in Prince Rupert.

20 Years Ago Today — D. H. McDonald, former fire chief and a member of the fire department for 23 years, left to reside in Vancouver.

Word has been received from Riverside, California, that Mrs. Fred Roberge is now practising law in the state of California.

10 Years Ago Today — Major-General G. R. Pearkes, VC, in speaking to the Prince Rupert Machine-Gun Regiment, warned that the people of the Pacific coast are quite liable to see some sort of invasion attempt here.

Advertisement for F-99, featuring a picture of a person and the text 'F-99 TREATMENT'.

VICTORIA REPORT

VICTORIA.—A session of the Legislature is no longer the big round of social events it once was. MLAs these days are economizing in their living and partying.

Time was when most MLAs stayed at the Empress Hotel—in the good old days of Liberals and Conservatives. CCFers have never stayed at the Empress. This year only four MLAs are there—one Social Creditor, two Conservatives and a Liberal.

Other MLAs are at smaller and cheaper hotels, at motor courts, in small apartments, in rooming houses. There aren't any rich people in the House now, as far as we know, with the possible exception of Premier Bennett, who doesn't like big parties and high living. He neither smokes nor drinks, like Bryon Johnson and John Hart before him, though on occasion Mr. Hart takes a drink.

Most MLAs nowadays depend on their \$3,000 a year sessional indemnity to help them make both ends meet. Indeed, a lot of them really need it, according to CCF Mr. Squire of Port Alberni who complained in the House that MLAs elected last June didn't get one cent of their money until they got to Victoria for the session. He said conditions were so tough with some MLAs that they had to borrow—and he had to lend one of them \$10. Mr. Squire thought there should be advances from time to time during the year to tide over hard-up MLAs.

There are no big parties in cabinet ministers' homes this session for the simple reason that they're small homes, those who have them. The Premier who is MLA for South Okanagan, and Finance Minister Gundersen, MLA for Similkameen, have apartments by the sea in Oak Bay; Lands and Forests Minister Sommers, MLA for Rossland-Trail has a home at the Gorge; Trade and Industry Minister Chetwynd, MLA for

Cariboo has an apartment looking into Beacon Hill Park; Agriculture Minister Kiernan, MLA for Chilliwack has a suite overlooking park and sea; Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, MLA for Nelson-Creston is in an up-town apartment-hotel; Attorney-General Bonner, MLA for Columbia stays at the Union Club; Education Minister Tilly Rolston's at the Empress. She has no hesitation in saying she never wants to keep house again, that she served her time pot-walloping and making beds, seeing as how she brought up three children and helped with the grandchildren—nine, eight of them boys.

The Premier gave a dinner for MLAs at the Empress, a dinner that was dry, pleasing a lot of people, but causing comment in some quarters. But everyone, even the parched ones, agreed it was a very delightful dinner.

King and Bennett—two of the most famous names in Canadian political history. They are being perpetuated in the B.C. Legislature. For years here it was W. A. C. Bennett and Tom King of Columbia riding. There used to be wisecracks about it—Bennett of the Tories, King of the Liberals, just like in Ottawa. Then, last year, when Tom King wouldn't run again, it seemed the King-Bennett partnership-in-name-only was to be broken, even assuming Mr. Bennett got back.

But what happened? The Social Credit sweep turned out another Mr. King—Llewellyn Leslie King of Port George. And so the B.C. Legislature, like the House of Commons for so long, still has its Mr. Bennett and its Mr. King. But no longer are B.C.'s Bennett and King Con-

(Continued on Page 5)

Large advertisement for Inglis Automatic Washers and Dryers, featuring pictures of the appliances and a price list. The price list includes: INGLIS AUTOMATIC WASHER (Standard Model) \$379.50, INGLIS DELUXE AUTOMATIC (with Suds Miser) \$429.00, INGLIS DELUXE AUTOMATIC (Non-Suds Miser) \$399.00, and INGLIS AUTOMATIC DRYER \$319.00.