

Immediate Action Needed

NOW that the city has a yardstick by which to measure the relative advantages and disadvantages of the two alternatives facing it for obtaining power, it is to be hoped that some immediate progress will be made towards solving this contentious issue.

In examining these alternatives, consulting electrical engineer M. A. Thomas has given what appears to be an eminently fair evaluation of both. He discourages the fanning of old fires by assessing the record of the Northern B.C. Power Co. in this way:

"I have not been able to discover any instance where they have not been able and willing to supply electrical service to any potential customer, of any category, provided the customer was willing to pay the prevailing rates, and otherwise meet the requirements of service, which were in effect at the time."

With attention thus focussed entirely on the present and future, this recommendation emerges with particular emphasis: "Because of the many uncertain factors regarding Kitimat power, I would definitely recommend that the city avoid making any agreement for a term of the order of 20 years, as suggested by the Northern B.C. Power Co."

Since indications are that the level of rates would be much the same under either the private company or the power commission, the question of which party can make the best provisions for our expanding requirements becomes the overriding consideration. While possibly there are sources to which we can look besides Kitimat, it is difficult to turn away from the attractions of the project there. So great is the promise of its surplus energy there that supply from this source might well settle Prince Rupert's power problem for all time.

Mr. Thomas leaves no doubt about his choice of the party best equipped to provide the tie-up. Having pointed to the probability of the power commission linking Terrace to Kitimat, he remarks: "In my opinion it is quite possible that they would therefore be in a position to bring this power to Prince Rupert at an earlier date than would be feasible for the Northern B.C. Power Co."

There is another factor which puts the power commission in a favorable light. Municipalities it serves are grouped into districts where the costs of power generation and transmission are pooled. This makes possible the establishment of stabilized rate structures which remain more or less unaffected by the amount of energy consumed.

Against these factors must be listed two pertinent considerations. One is that, under the stipulations of the Electric Power Act, the power commission must be invited to establish a power district in the area before it will make a report on its proposals. The other is that, once the city opened the door to the commission, it would sacrifice its bargaining rights concerning power. Only by the lengthy course of an appeal to the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council could it get a hearing for any disagreements it may have.

That, in brief, is the case now before the city. Over the council's deliberations looms the picture of a growing city whose power needs are certain to be multiplied within the next several years. Rates, bargaining rights, and everything else notwithstanding, the party which offers the greatest promise of meeting these needs is the party with which we should do business.

Australian Government Introduces Bill To Set Up Atomic Commission

CANBERRA, Reuters — The government has introduced a bill to create an Australian atomic energy commission with special security provisions to safeguard the country's uranium fields, among the world's major suppliers of the atomic ore.

Supply Minister Howard Beale said the bill was necessary because the government felt uranium deposits should be promptly exploited for the defence of Australia and her allies and also ultimately for industrial purposes.

The bill provides for 20-year prison terms for the communi-

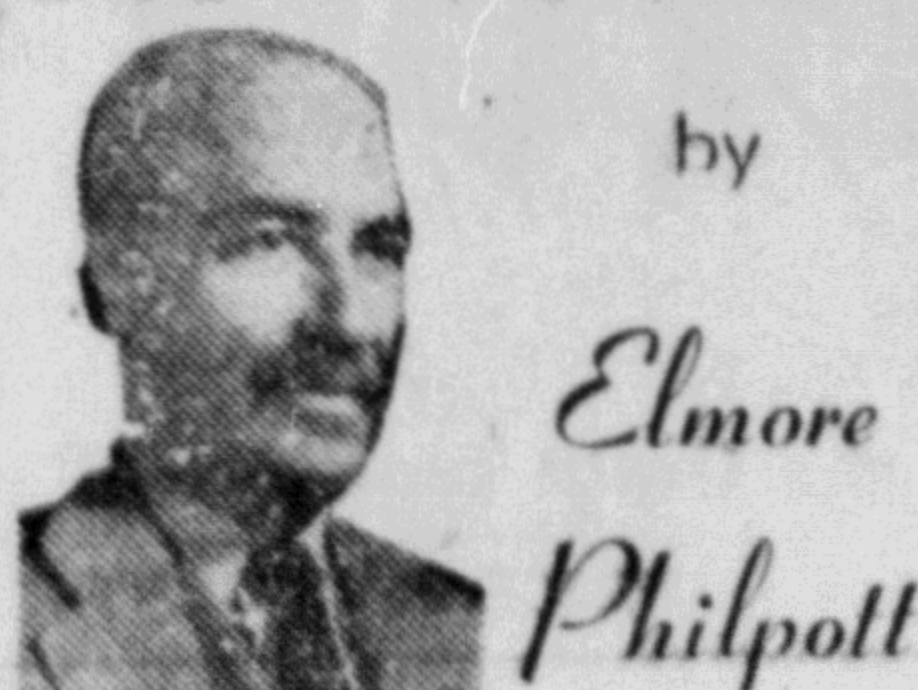
cation, acquisition or removal of restricted information to the prejudice of defence.

Britain and the United States are sharing development costs of Australia's uranium fields in return for supplies of the vital ore.

Beale announced Australia's newly-discovered Rum Jungle field, covering 1,200 square miles of desert land in the Northern Territory, will be in full production next year.

Production at Radium Hill, Australia's second major uranium field about 250 miles north-east of Adelaide in the south, began in 1950.

As I See It



Tucson Paper Replies

THE Arizona Daily Star has replied to my column titled O God O Arizona—which is reprinted, in full.

On March 14 the Tucson paper said:

"When the Star compares the present-day contribution of Canadian manpower of one half of one per cent of Canada's population in active military service. Mr. Philpott scolds that Canada did its share in World War I and World War II. Nowhere does he state the facts about Canada's military manpower."

"The only sore fact that remains is that of manpower." It says.

"Today American boys are being drafted to serve in Korea, Germany and in the many bases that cover the globe. More than 3,750,000 of them are in military service. If Canada were doing her proportionate share she would have 175,000 instead of 75,000 in active service and they would be obligated to serve all over the world, like those of U.S.A. It will take more than vitriolic words to ignore this issue to answer why Canada cannot do her proportionate share."

LET US ignore the error in the Arizona Star's latest article. Actually, we have 101,000 men under arms, ready for service in any part of the world, and not 75,000 as the Tucson editor says. Due to war costs, Canada is bearing a heavier and not a lighter tax load than is the U.S.A. As our Conservative leader, George Drew, showed in parliament on March 9, "in the case of actual taxes paid per capita we are substantially above those being paid in the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Australia."

"The gross national product of the United States for 1952 was \$346,300 million. The gross national product of Canada in the same year, 1952, was \$22,984 million. The budget now before the Congress of the United States calls for expenditure of \$68,700 million. The budget now before the House calls for expenditures of \$4,817 million. The budget now before the Congress of U.S. represents 19.84 per cent of the gross national product of that country, while the budget before this House represents 20.96 per cent of the gross national product last year of this country."

WE CANADIANS do not think it is our place to tell our American cousins that they should chip in more financially, to bring their taxes up to our Canadian level.

On the other hand, Canadians do not think it is any of Uncle Sam's business whether we have (as we do) 101,000 men in uniform or the 175,000 the Tucson paper says we should have.

Up here we still believe in the good old principle of "No Taxation Without Representation." We do not mind doing our full share in Korea or elsewhere provided that we have full and equal representation on the allied councils which decide on any particular expedition. But did we have even one Canadian in the truce tents, in the months before things went from bad to worse in Korea? No.

OUR OWN Senate and Commons have both passed resolutions urging steps to explore setting up one mighty Atlantic Union in which Americans, Canadians, Britons and others in NATO would have equal military duties, equal rights and equal taxes for defence.

Meanwhile, our war plans are not based on trying to kill off the half a billion Asians whose armies are involved in Korea—but in having the core of an armed force that will help do the decisive job if real war comes with Russia. We think two world wars show that our contribution in another would be as good, relatively, as our big neighbors—still, by the way, our best friend.

Salmon Available

LONDON (CP)—The first allocation of canned salmon in nearly a year has been announced by the British food ministry. Some of the salmon is Canadian, purchased last year, but most is Russian salmon obtained in a barter deal for British herring in 1952.



THE PANGS OF HUNGER are relieved for these tiny Korean tots with wholesome powdered-sweet hot milk provided by Canadians. Through the efforts of the Unitarian Services Committee of Canada, headed by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, 210,000 pounds of the powdered milk were provided last month, enough to give every primary school child in Seoul, Korea, one glass a day for a month. Seated, extreme right, is Maj. G. Fraser, senior Protestant Chaplain with the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Korea.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

MPs of most of the political parties are more than a little worried about the vote which closed the budget debate. It definitely caught them badly off-base. Result: they're afraid of an unfavorable public re-action. Mathematically, close to 40 per cent of the Commons membership missed the vote. Since the carrying of the budget is one of the most important milestones in the work of the session, tradition dictates that there should be virtually a full attendance of MPs to participate in the final vote. This year's evidence of disinterest is something for which there is no precedent within the memory of veteran Parliamentary observers.

The truth is that many MPs from Ontario and Quebec ridings simply gambled on the continuance of the budget debate until the middle of the week, and refused to shorten their normal Thursday-to-Tuesday week-end on the chance of a vote being reached Monday night.

At that, the showing was considerably better than it might have been if the government whips hadn't been right on the job. Tom Ross, Liberal MP for East Hamilton, was in process of holding a reception in a downtown hotel for a foreign-born group from his riding which was visiting in the Capital. Some 25 MPs and three Cabinet Ministers were helping to entertain the group. At the height of the festivities the government whips raised the gathering and carried off all the MPs to take part in the House vote.

As a result, the Liberals polled 101 out of a possible voting strength of 185. That's about 55 per cent of maximum. The PCs did a little better, but not much. Their record was 29 out of 48, for a percentage showing of 60. Social Credit, with only five out of its house group of 10 present, made the poorest showing of any party. Its percentage rating was exactly 50.

The CCF made the best mathematical showing of any of the political parties. Out of its membership of 13, 11 were present to vote.

The CCF record, it is only fair to state, was no mere flash in the pan. While the Socialist MPs have their share of legislative failings, indolence or indifference isn't one of them. Their group is easily the most consistently hard-working in the Commons.

WHIPS BLAMED
The old-line party members who are concerned over the possibility of an unfavorable public re-action to the vote, are blaming the party whips for allowing it to take place when the attendance was so sparse. But the understanding is that the government whips were under orders to close the debate at the earliest possible moment. The P.M. considered that it had already dragged too long.

MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today

Dr. Young, the provincial secretary and Minister of Education, formally opened the new hospital wing of the General Hospital.

A brush fire broke out on 11th Avenue near the Boulevard and firemen fought the blaze for an hour before it was brought under control.

30 Years Ago Today

The steamer Glenchy is in port after planting a quantity of sockeye salmon eggs along the coast with a view to building up the sockeye supply.

The oolachan run has started on the Naas river and the natives are gathering at Fishing Bay to take the annual harvest of "candle-fish."

20 Years Ago Today

V. Brett, captain of the visiting C.N.R.A. basketball team from Vancouver is in hospital as a result of injuries suffered when he hit a post during the first of a two-game series with the local team.

The regular meeting of the Ladies' Music Club was held at the home of Mrs. H. F. Pullen with Mrs. R. L. McIntosh, presiding.

ray...

Reflects and Reminisces

A girl who tells you she'd like to see the man who could make her love, honor and obey, probably would.

Egypt is said to live by virtue of the Nile. Seventy per cent of her twenty millions population are employed in agriculture. Yet there is only a total of eight million acres of land for these 114 million to till. Every arabic square foot must be worked and every square foot depends on the Nile for its usefulness. A difference indeed, between Canada and the land of Egypt.

A Vancouver couple, this month, felt distinguished to realize they had been married well beyond sixty years. It was therefore fitting to stage a complimentary party. Hence, mention should be made of the Kirkpatrick who used to dwell in Prince Rupert, where William J. served in the Customs, and his good wife occupied a seat in the city council. In Victoria a few weeks back, news of their 71st wedding anniversary started a series of congratulations—and small wonder.

The Police Gazette is trying to make us believe that Peron, big boss of Argentina is trying to hide Hitler as a resurrection of Nazism. There must be a devilishly ingenious novelist somewhere on the staff of the Gazette.

SO WHY?
The generation now starting work scarcely dreams of putting in more than forty hours, or taking out less than forty dollars. Why should it? Plenty of employers are willing to meet these conditions, even for boys who have just begun shaving. So comments the Toronto Globe and Mail. The real point about such wages is that they are not related to anything; least of all, the value of the work performed in exchange for them.

Regarded as the oldest veteran of the American Civil War, Jas. A. Hard died in Rochester (N.Y.) last week aged 111. Most of his life he was a consistent cigar smoker. General U. S. Grant, commander of the Union armies died from cancer of the throat, brought on by excessive cigar smoking.

COME OCTOBER

Premier St. Laurent, in a chat with reporters last week end said they might figure an election date being October 19. There certainly would be none before June, and July and August could be reckoned too hot. September was vacation and relaxation time. Yes! Mark your ballot in October.

Broom hasn't been noticed lately. For years the colorful bloom relieved the somewhat changeless hillside of the railway reserve. And this spring, even back is not included in Prince Rupert refreshment. No demand for it, say brewers. And this, after seven centuries of quaffing.

That old Irish lady who lived to be more than a century old, smoked an average of thirty cigarettes a day. Early in life, of course, she had been carefully warned by her physician.

Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia will be five days in London and to many a Communist—and perhaps others—he's rated Europe's finest target. Detectives will welcome a rest one of these days. They will have earned it.

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GOVERNMENT TO STUDY DRUNK DRIVING PROBLEM

VICTORIA — The Attorney-General's department study the general question of alcoholism during the year.

This was disclosed by Premier Bennett in reply to a question on the legislature's order paper from Harold CCF leader of the opposition. The premier said no investigation has yet been made on drunk driving problems since such was requested a year ago by a resolution in the house.

FRESH AS A SPRING MORNING



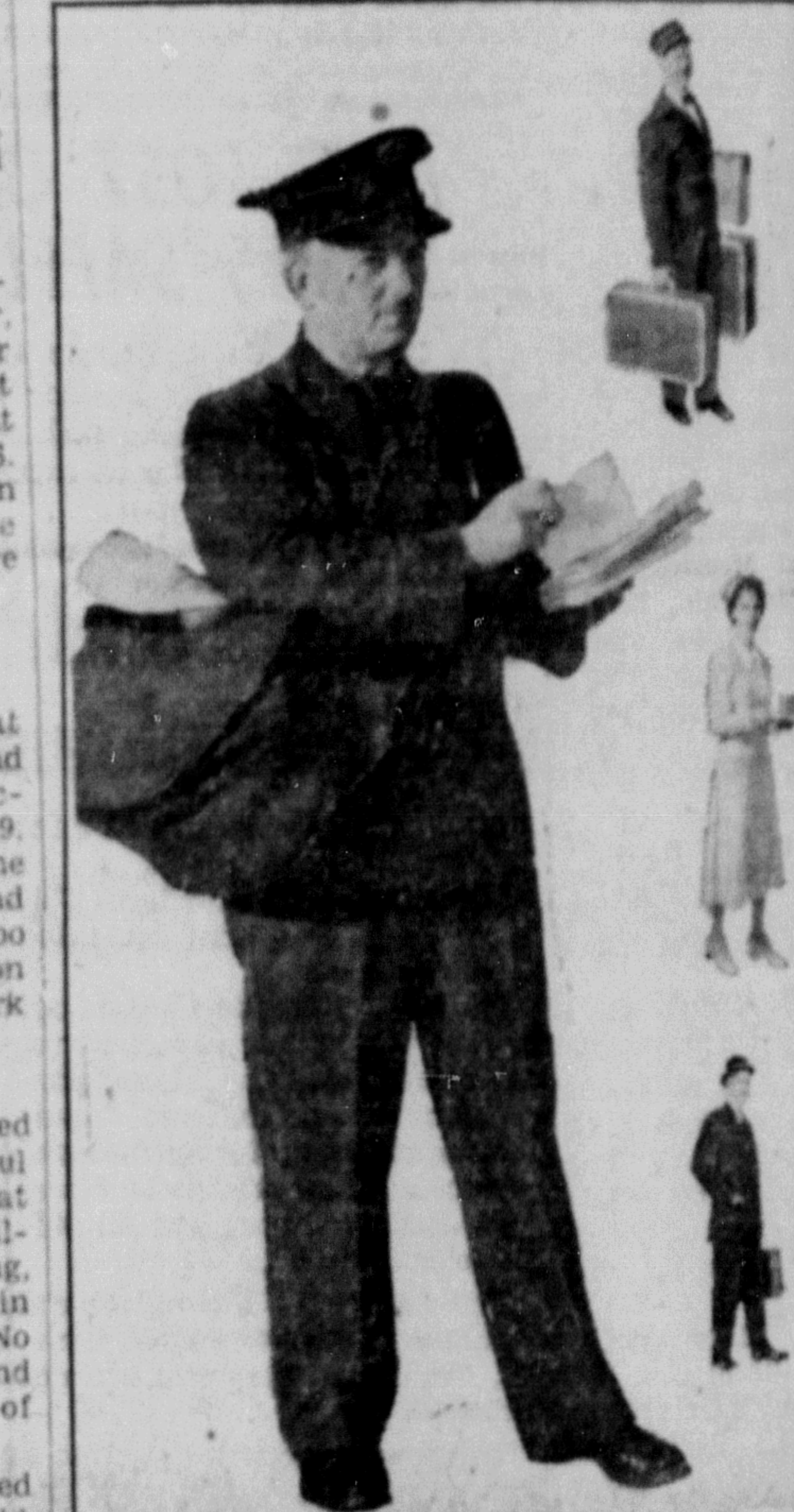
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