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## Take Highways Out of Politics

WHILE we have all the sympathy in the world for Vancouver with its traffic problems, we have none for the Vancouver Sun in its anxiety to place these problems first on the list of things to be done for the highways of this province.

"It's all very well to speak of building highways 'to open up the country,'" the Sun remarks in a recent editorial. "That sounds fine in a legislature dominated by rural members. But opening up the country mustn't be done at the expense of closing down the cities."

Our esteemed contemporary no doubt speaks with sincerity because, from the vantage point of the Sun tower, it is understandably difficult to realize there is anything more to B.C. than the broad and busy domain below. To one in such a frame of mind it becomes all-important that there be still another link with New Westminster and that the Marpole bridge be replaced.

But we suggest the indignation in the Sun tower is blended with a little smog which hampers one's view of a province that is even greater than Vancouver. We think a clearer perspective can be obtained from the window of a car whose driver is bold enough to believe there is something to B.C. north of the Fraser valley.

Probably in the opinion of the Sun, such a driver hardly counts because he is one of a few. It is the paper's contention that roads should be built where the traffic is heaviest.

While that is a very thoughtful argument, we wonder how there can be any traffic where there are no roads at all. If a freeway between Vancouver and New Westminster is overdue, what can be said of a highway from Prince George into Alberta? If absence of the first is an inconvenience, that of the second can be classed only as a tragedy.

It is true, as the Sun observes, that taxpayers in the Vancouver area pay heavily into the public works department. It is untrue, however, that this entitles them to the big share of highway construction and maintenance. The wealth of B.C. lies in the development of the province as a whole, not in the taxes from Vancouver.

The Sun asks that the highway policy be taken out of politics. We agree with this. Such a move should divert at least some attention from the influential southwest corner of the province where it is at present concentrated.

## OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Responsible Liberal Party circles already are thinking well ahead — probably three years ahead at least — to the time when Prime Minister St. Laurent will step down from office and a new party leader will be called.

And at the moment all signs point to Finance Minister Douglas Abbott as the individual to whom the call to succeed Mr. St. Laurent is going to come.

The boom of a few short years ago on behalf of External Affairs Minister L. B. (Mike) Pearson appears to have subsided by a sort of mutual consent amongst the party's unofficial king-makers. The more recent publicity for State Secretary "Jack" Pickersgill as a possible Liberal

Crown Prince also has died a natural death.

That isn't to say that Messrs. Pearson and Pickersgill may not at some time in the future become Liberal party leaders. On the contrary, their brilliant talents and advantages of youth are recognized as making it almost certain that they will be prominent in the leadership picture at some future date. But the situation at the moment is simply that in responsible party councils they aren't regarded as having yet had the seasoning in practical politics nor the experience in cabinet administration that the party leadership requires.

First step in promoting Mr. Abbott's eligibility for the St. Laurent mantle is expected to be taken in connection with the pending shuffle in cabinet posts. Rumor in Liberal quarters that usually are well informed suggests that Mr. Abbott will be named to the portfolio of External Affairs and that "Mike" Pearson will become Minister of Trade and Commerce — thus freeing Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe to devote all his time and organizing genius to the now vast department of Shuffler Production.

Such a shuffle would leave the important post of Finance Minister to be filled. It is expected that it will go to present Justice Minister Stuart Garson. The justice post then could go to either Paul Martin or to Defence Minister Brooke Claxton.

The necessity of getting Mr. Abbott out of the finance post as a preliminary to possible success to the leadership is mainly deference to old and well-established tradition. No finance minister in either of the major parties has ever succeeded in moving from that portfolio into leadership status. Most Parliament Hill observers believe that Mr. Abbott has sufficient personal popularity to defy the old superstition. But the party managers aren't taking any chances.

## Advice Needed Before Start Of Health Plan

CHARLOTTETOWN — The advice of medical men should be sought in drawing up any national health scheme, says Dr. C. W. Burns of Winnipeg, president of the Canadian Medical Association.

He told the annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Medical Society here Tuesday that all major political parties have committed themselves to some degree of national health insurance.

"It is reasonable to assume that a group of intelligent and public minded people such as the medical profession should be the best qualified to advise and formulate any new medical program if and when it becomes a national necessity."

Dr. Burns said doctors must be prepared to "challenge any drastic changes which may be proposed to govern the practice of medicine in this country."



CANADA, WITH OTHER COUNTRIES of the West, has eased travel restrictions on Soviet diplomats. The external affairs department has granted permission to the Russian embassy staff members to travel 75 miles outside of the capital without permission. Since early last year they had been restricted to 25 miles. This map shows the radius of the area inside Canada where they can move without restrictions.

## VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA — The so-called conservationists who don't want Buttle Lake dammed, because they prefer to keep it as a rich man's private preserve, seem to have the idea that the B.C. Power Commission is out to rob the public.

A Mr. R. H. Brown, who lives at Campbell River, came flying down to Victoria the other day in the private plane of a wealthy Californian, a Mr. Reid, who has a summer home at Buttle Lake, and is the behind-the-scenes leader in the fight to keep the Power Commission out of Buttle.

Mr. Brown came rushing to Victoria to say that the Power Commission should give the revenue it gets from sale of timber at the lake to the government's parks division. What strange reasoning is this? Mr. Brown seems to want to do the government's book-keeping. And he also says that what the Power Commission plans to do at Buttle is like breaking into a man's house and taking all his property.

The Power Commission is a reputable public body, responsible to the Legislature. It's not robbing anyone.

The Buttle Lake issue, which has rocked this capital, should be decided on its merits. If competent engineers say there can be a dam at Buttle, that should be it. Buttle Lake belongs to the people and should be developed for the people. If Buttle is dammed, the whole lake will be opened to the people, not held for a few fortunate individuals who can afford private planes.

Logging and mining companies are seizing the latest annual reports of the Department of Mines, and the Government's forest service, as proof positive that the proposed new taxes on mining and logging profits should not now be levied. In 1952, according to the reports, value of both mining and logging industries declined over 1951 — logging by \$3,000,000, mining by \$4,000,000.

The logging and mining interests say that the new taxes will further cut into their industries, thereby perhaps causing some unemployment, and creating more difficulties for these two important arms of B.C.'s economic life.

But, at this moment, it seems the government will go ahead with its planned new taxes; they should be in effect now, having been on the program at the spring session of the Legislature.

However, the government's sudden collapse hoisted the new taxes, along with most other pieces of legislation.

Premier Bennett says that the government will consider selling the P.G.E. to U.S. interests if it can't get co-operation from the Federal Government and the two big Canadian railways in extending it to North Vancouver, and into the Peace River area.

There are those who say that this is a bit of a threat, a come-on to Ottawa and the C.P.R. and C.N.R. to do something — or else Canada will lose the P.G.E.

Mr. Bennett says U.S. interests are again eyeing the P.G.E., and that the B.C. Government will consider selling it if it gets the right deal. The Premier says the right deal would be to sell the right-of-way and the road's physical assets, but no land would go with it, and that there would have to be cast-iron guarantees to extend the railway into North Vancouver and to the Peace.

Mr. Bennett is going to Ottawa in November to see if he can get what he calls a better deal for British Columbia. He says he doesn't want any more money, under the Federal-Provincial income tax arrangements, but that he does want the Federal Government to share in the development of B.C. — main highways, forest protection, and PGE extension.

The Johnson-Anscomb Coalition government got \$15,000 a mile out of Ottawa for the 80-mile PGE extension from Quesnel to Prince George. Mr. Bennett looks upon that sum as peanuts, says he won't settle for it.

Extension of the P.G.E. to North Vancouver and the Peace would cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000. Mr. Bennett says B.C. just hasn't got that kind of money; that, all by itself, it can't afford these extensions, and yet, without them, the P.G.E. will never pay. The Premier thinks Ottawa should put up at least 50 per cent of that \$100,000,000.

## Cafes in Rome Oppose New Tax

ROME (Reuters) — Rome's 4,000 bar and cafe owners Tuesday threatened to take their daily painted tables and chairs off the city's pavements and switch off their neon signs if they are forced to pay a new municipal tax. They also threatened a total 24-hour strike if the municipal council carries out its plan to make the tax retroactive to Jan. 1, and gave mayor Salvatore Rebecchini 12 hours to withdraw the new tax.

Birds have been known to start forest fires by carrying away lighted cigarette butts.



MICHAEL SAUL COMAY, Israel's first minister to Canada, arrives with his wife and family at Ottawa. At right is Jill, 16, and son Jochanan, 14, holds his pet dog Blackie.

## All Aboard By G.E. Mortimore

One Dr. Boetius Hansen of Niebuell, Germany failed to collect his gold pin for driving 53 years without an accident, said a recent news item. He collided with a police car on the way to the ceremony.

They tied up the wire from Europe just to tell us that? Look me in the face and answer yes or no: Did you ever read about a safety champion who got there to collect his loving cup? I thought not. I have followed these safety award winners, and I can tell you for certain that they never do collect. They always have an accident on the way there.

And what about the shabby old vagrant, picked up by the police for begging, who is found to possess \$15,500 in a battered suitcase? Why do the newspapers bother to tell us about him?

All shabby vagrants picked up by the police are found to have \$15,500 in a battered suitcase. All bearded hermits found living in squalor have \$32,244 hidden in the mattress. No thrifty hermit ever has less.

These facts are so well known to readers of newspapers that it is no longer safe for a shabby old vagrant to walk the streets. For instance, thugs constantly approach me in the alleys and snarl: "Okay, Buster, hand over the 15 and a half G's. Don't try to kid me. I know you got it."

I read going home at night, for fear that the mattress will be ripped open again.

Newspaper readers also know of the constant failure of gunmen to find the \$9,248.50 in the safe.

"Masked bandits" held up a downtown "vegetable juice" bar today and escaped with \$3.05 in coin, but missed \$9,248.50 hidden in a safe at the rear. You read that kind of story so often that it is no longer news.

What about that \$9,248.50 in

the safe at the rear, chief? bandits often ask as the gang plans a job. "Couldn't we pick it up just this once?"

"You know we can't do that, Butch," the boss snaps back. "Whaddya think we are — a buncha amateurs?"

Families which escape from burning houses are always aroused from sleep by the barking of a faithful dog. There is absolutely no exception to this rule. One looks in vain for a family which has been roused from sleep by the bellowing of a faithful camel, or a whiff of odor from a faithful skunk, or even a family which has simply awakened in the ordinary way.

Well, these routine stories won't do. In future we shall expect new angles, such as . . .

"Nathan Goatgirdle collected a tin pickle-fork today for 75 years' safe driving. 'I came here by bus,' he told reporters. 'Matter of fact, I sold my car. Streets aren't safe these days.'"

"Police are baffled by the case of a bearded hermit who was found to have no money. A thorough search of the attic occupied by Jasper Slug, 81, disclosed only a tin of beans and a battered suitcase filled with newspapers. There was nothing in the mattress but straw. Police are still investigating."

"Masked bandits held up a downtown junk store today and escaped with \$9,258.50, all the cash on the premises. They removed the safe from the rear of the store, loaded it in a truck and drove away."

"A family of six barely escaped alive from their burning home last night after their dog had slunk out the back door without a sound."

"James Snore, father of the family, awakened and smelled smoke. He carried his wife and children to safety while the dog snarled at him and, on one occasion, sank its teeth in his leg."

## Work Proceeding Well on Renovation Of Parliament Library After Fire

OTTAWA — Work is going smartly ahead on renovation of the 86-year-old parliamentary library just a year after a dogged fire damaged the building and 75,000 of the library's 500,000 odd books.

The public works department plans to renew most of the wooden parts of the structure and some of the metal roofing. Steel will be added to the dome which supports the 140-foot-high spire.

The work is being carried out by the Toronto architectural firm of Mathers and Haldenby under the department's supervision.

## NOT MUCH CHANGE

When the job is finished, probably in the fall of 1954, the "Canadian Gothic" building will look almost as it did before the August, 1952, fire. Canada's No. 1 library then will move back from the Supreme Court and Canadian Bank Note Buildings to its original quarters.

Just as there was little spectacular about the fire, there is little spectacular about the restoration. The fire broke out about two hours after midnight, apparently caused by a short circuit at the base of the spire.

Firemen fought the blaze for 12 hours after the flames took hold of wooden beams.

Flames leaped sporadically from the dome and there was plenty of smoke but in the main the fight was a grim, undramatic one by firemen on long ladders who saturated the beams before the smouldering fire died out.

Heavy damage was done by tons of water which drenched the three galleries of books lining the circular building and then seeped through the wooden parquet floor to galleries of books in the basement.

The work of saving the books began immediately; the long slow job of renovating the library began some months ago.

## MOULD CHECKED

Librarians and works department employees carried the 75,000 water-damaged books and pamphlets into parliamentary corridors and the Supreme Court Building and spread them out to dry while fans whirled to keep the air moving above them.

At first it was feared that mould damage might prove severe. However, the drying method checked the mould. The books were sorted and it was found that many thousands needed rebinding but that only 200 or so would have to be discarded.

The rebuilding job and the task of coaxing the others back into shape by one means or another still is going on. Officials hope to complete it by the time the building job is finished.

The library building is joined to the main block of the Parliament Buildings on the north side facing the Ottawa River. Its dome flanked by cathedral-like buttresses and surmounted by a spire and pinnacles make it a prime tourist attraction and one of Canada's most unusual buildings.

Colorado was the leading state for gold production until 1910, when it was outstripped by California.

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TWC CANADIAN AIR CADETS, Adrien Depot (left) and Frank Joseph Fiegel, Regina, arrive in Amsterdam for a tour of the Netherlands as guests of the Royal Netherlands Club. It is part of an international air cadet exchange program. At right is W. S. Durbin, second secretary of the Canadian embassy at The Hague.

## Ray REFLECTS and REMINIS

There is this much about driving an old car. You do not have to worry about getting into a wreck. You're already in one.

## MUST DO SOMETHING

For years there has been a popular impression that it would not be possible to have Stanley Park more beautiful than it already is. But today there are two schools of thought and these are rapidly developing. This much seems certain. Whatever is done will mean a heavy outlay. For its so easy to think of spending the taxpayers' money, even without any particular urgency.

The London Times has never missed an issue in all of its 163 years history. We reckon that generations ago The Times got over worrying about being scooped, threatened with libel and other inconsequential trifles.

## IT MIGHT AT THAT

It's worth while taking a second look at cars that chance to be in Prince Rupert this summer. Many a license can tell a tale of far away horizons, rotten roads and perfect drives, incidents and adventures — if it would.

Ever since I said, "I do," there are so many things we don't. — Lucille Ball.

A man may be as old as he feels, but a woman isn't as old as the other women say she is.

The west coast has been cool this summer, while back east you could call life just one sizzling spell after another. Too much of either is a nuisance, and the latter, uncontrolled, can bring on attacks of self pity which must be avoided at all costs.

Many a woman these days is a self-made girl. — Sault Daily Star.

From an AP Wirephoto note: "New York man with 1045-pound fish he caught on hook and line."

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