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Building Problems

DIANS ar clamoring for more new homes builders can sell more if only they can keep wn, says Dr. O. J. Firestone, economic adthe Trade Department and Central Mort-Housing Corporation. He realizes that it y to keep costs down, especially when labor for higher wages and prices of materials ng. But the building industry has to undere "basic facts."

en with plentiful materials and more liberal the building industry must be able to a house at a price that the majority of ns can afford to pay if the industry wants busy and lumber dealers want to sell large es of lumber in the domestic market.

is pretty important to remember that there nly competition among business men in one but also competition between different t kinds of commodities for the consumer and if we have faith in competition, then we o our utmost to make it work for our

h Canadians earning more and saving more ev did before the Second World War, the n standard of living is rising and with it e a big demand for Canadian lumber.

fact, Canadians, says Dr. Firestone, could still higher standard of living and more if they chose to work the same hours they re the war. Instead the trend is towards less nd more leisure and the "non-material pur-

en so, the average income of a working per-951 amounted to \$2,980, almost three times rage \$1,058 earned in 1939.

the business side, corporation profits quadto \$2,500,000,000 in 1951 from \$658,000,000 in Capital expenditures by business skyrocketed 0,000,000 from \$400,000,000.

this has meant a great wave of prosperity radians. But business men have to face up to "that periods of great buoyancy are usually by some slackening."

the strength of the current wave of prosthe market for lumber in Canada is growing. century ago Canada absorbed about oneof her lumber production, exporting the hree-quarters. By 1951, she was absorbing one-half her production.

the lumber industry, as any other business, remain competitive. Otherwise Canada may ater use of substitute materials such as and light metals in home and furniture

g Ourselves Out?

VE fears are voiced by the Victoria Times garding the immediate future of the major Columbia lumber industry. And any serious it warns, would soon be felt by the whole of the coast province.

nger stems from the huge and high-priced government contract which will end next For some time this contract has virtually a floor for the industry, keeping prices of mber both in the domestic and export marove the price levels prevailing in the United This contract "prodigally negotiated by the Attlee government" will not be renewed, he Victoria paper, and when it ends two re likely to happen—"a reduction in British d a reduction in prices."

der the circumstances one would suppose interests concerned would be proceeding ution. Instead labor unions both in lumber ilding are proposing another increase in nd, according to the Times, the whole B.C. including the provincial government, be operating on the tacit assumption that m can go on forever, that there is no risk of ourselves out of world markets.

a basically exporting province like British la, warns the Times, that situation is dan-It is dangerous for any part of Canada. imately a quarter of our total production nd a market beyond our boundaries, in the States, Great Britain or elsewhere. We must at export in order to finance our imports. andard of living, our prosperity, our jobs nd tomorrow are absolutely dependent on a export trade.



Over Disease

REGINA (CP) - The foot-andmouth disease outbreak that has thrown a scare into many parts of Canada has stirred up scarcely a visible ripple on the surface of this bustling capital, on the edge of the quarantined livestock area.

The business and civil life of Powell River the 76,000 population of the "Queen City of the Prairies" ap- POWELL RIVER: I have pears hardly to have been touched by the impact of the outbreak with the series of embargoes arising from it.

Some business men say, 1922. though, there may be a delayed and on whether the infection which goes to show that

At the moment, officials of the health of animals division say they seem to have it stopped, cheat my own grandchildren.) with the last herd of infected livestock put under the gun yesterday. But they are keeping

Meanwhile, merchants report itself. apparent drop. Among the merchants hit have been a few in the flour and feed business whose main trade has been selling feed the herds have been slaugh- humdinger about this place.

with no drop in patronage. Tommy Trinder, the British

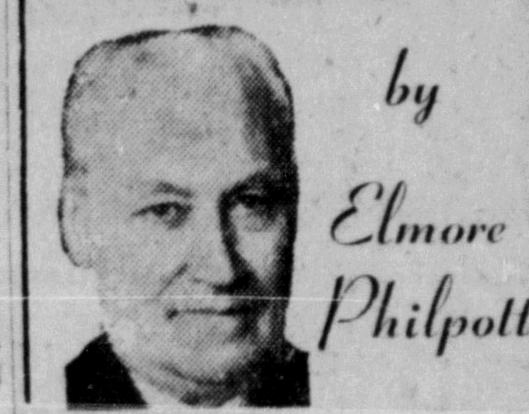
Gounod's "Faust." severity of the foot-and-mouth ment.) But the whole recent through here. It's grain money, smell of burning sulphur when economy. rather than cattle money, that sulphur is an absolute essential

there will be much of a kick- in the field of human relations vented in Norway. back here from the disease outbreak for some time, if at all.

"The big problem," he said, "will be in the future, depending on what develops. If the outbreak is contained in the area where they now are holding it, things won't be serious."

A bank manager expressed the same view. He thought there might be some financial difficulties among the herdsmen who have had their cattle killed to control the outbreak.

"But we can carry them along until they get their herds reestablished again," he said. They're all good credit risks. One thing makes it easier, of couse, is that the area has never been so prosperous. If it were not for that, matters might be tough."



been working for Cana-

dian newspapers since

Last year, during my trip to effect later on. But it's too early India, the daily print of my colnow to forecast that with any umn reached the astonishing accuracy, they say. It will de- total of more than .700,000, at pend on such factors as how times, almost three quarters of long the various embargoes last a million copies per day. All of is cleaned up without spreading thirty years I have helped to use out beyond the quarantine zone. up a fabulous amount of newsprint. (No wonder I favor reforestation. I don't want to help

Yet not till I visited this giant had I ever set foot in the plants

HAS ANYBODY ever written a the woods.

diences a few days ago with strong meat in your story. You The family had made the shack topical cracks about the epi- would find that harsh, intimi- serve till the new one was ready. demic. The community opera dating management methods of At the present rate, you will group is going right ahead with several decades ago have left soon see a whole community of plans for a presentation of scars not fully forgotten even neat, good homes. All these are to this day. (That was before outside the original "company Main reason for the lack of the time of the new manage- town."

turns the wheels of Regina's in the process-how to offset that ear-piercing discord that is Alex Aitken, secretary of Re- a by-product of the paper mak-

-the top men in the "company town" were really throwing themselves into the job of making this a quite different place from the old idea of "company

Powell River story of 1952 in one a swing around the province sentence you could say: Here is holding classes at all divisional a company town trying its points in the interior and on darndest not to act like one- Vancouver Island. During his Philpott indeed, not to be one.

> THE AVERAGE man who works British Columbia. Prince Rupert in a paper plant is probably better off than he could be in any other B.C. job which calls for about the same qualifications. The recent peak world demand for newsprint has meant that the paper making people have been sure of year round jobs. Compared with a logger or sawmill employee the papermaker has all the best of it. His year-round pay is "in the bag."

Here, too, the layout of the country means that the worker can get from the plant to his own home in a very few minutes. I spotted one chap in a red jersey coming off afternoon shift. Less than fifteen minutes later, miles away, I saw the same man digging in his garden, outside the company town limits. among the world's paper towns He had a fine new modern bungalow which an upper income professional man would be glad to live in, if it were in a big

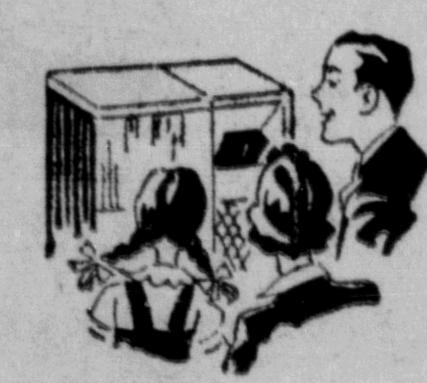
I found that that home, and good novel on life in a "com- many more like it, had been pany town"? It seems to me that built mostly by the men themto growers in the area where a good writer could turn out a selves in off-work hours. They have an adaptation here of the Here in the foreground are not old Ontario "barn raising" plan. On the entertainment side, only all the makings for human Some groups of friends work tothe theatres are going strong, drama. But in the background gether over the weekends, helpis the bigger story—the saga of ing to build their own homes. Often you will see a crude shack comedian, was wowing full au- You would find plenty of side by side with a new home.

effect on Regina is that this is trend of your story would be THEY make over a thousand a wheat, rather than a cow that year by year human rela- tons of newsprint ever day at town, centre of Saskatchewan's tions had improved. Powell River. They are part of huge grain commerce. A big You would find here plenty of what has become the most imitem of business is the distri- tough mechanical problems still portant manufacturing indusbution of farm implements to lick-how to get rid of the try in the whole Canadian

SCENTED NECKLACES Cheap pearls made from hergina's Chamber of Commerce, ing. But you would find that in ring scales, which develop a said yesterday it's not likely all these matters, and above all pleasant scent, have been in-

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Seals Ride Skeena Ice

of fat seals riding the ice floes ers from the shore. and apparently preying on the salmon of which they are one the most notorious enemies.

Suggestions are made that this might be a good time for bounty hunters to make a haul and, at the same time, for the Department of Fisheries to take some action. Five dollars a nose is the seal bounty.

Estimates vary as to the damage that the seals do to the salmon but it is known that it is large, the marine animals not actually devouring the fish whole but taking a bit out of them which soon causes their

Lessons For Railwaymen

VANCOUVER-About 250 Vancouver employees of the Canadian National Railways are back in school this week but, in place of the traditional three R's, they are concerned with only one--

The students at the special rules instruction classes are the employees who are responsible for the daily operation of trains. They include engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen, signalmen, yard switchmen, sectionmen and operators of snow plows and other rail equipment.

During the classes the rule instructor, Lorne M. Thomson of Vancouver, covers the entire uniform code of operating rules and explains how it contributes to the safe operation of trains.

All the men have already passed an examination in the new code of rules since its adoption last September, but they are required to attend classes periodically to keep them up to scratch.

After conducting classes here Mr. Thomson, whose territory covers all of B.C. and Alberta If you had to write the whole as far as Edmonton, will go on 21/2-month tour he will meet every CNR operating man in will be among the places visited.

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death without having fulfilled. Fisheries Department officials in this area usually keep a pretty their life function. Suggestions range from drop- watchful eye on the hair seals Motorists along the Skeen ping depth charges from heli- and arrange for their organized River Highway report hundreds copters to shooting the offend- destruction when conditions are favorable for a substantial kill

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