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Young Canada's Book Week

MRS. HUGH JOHN FLEMMING, a former British Columbian who is married to the premier of New Brunswick, has some wise words to say in connection with Young Canada's Book Week, of which she is patroness this year.

"Our most experienced educators keep reminding us that we can't dispose of harmful books merely by trying to ban them," she remarks. "We must provide satisfying substitutes in the form of attractive, good books to inspire and delight young minds."

In these few words Mrs. Fleming has picked out the weakness in the case of those self-appointed censors who would abolish this, that and the other thing from children's reading but have no alternative to offer.

Censorship which merely deletes is never effective. If children are being provided with offensive literature, there is no point in simply removing it from circulation. Something else of equal or more appeal to them has to take its place.

This is one of the purposes of Young Canada's Book Week which the country is now observing. It is a period in which parents, teachers and all others connected with children's activities are asked to make special efforts to interest the young in the treasure-house of fact and imagination found at the local library. In Prince Rupert, a contest to quicken youthful powers of observation and criticism is part of this worthwhile endeavor to turn children's attention to good reading.

As one writer has said, "The pleasant books of childhood cross all the frontiers." No child should be denied the chance to make such a fascinating trip.

What Price Security?

A NOTABLE conversion of thought for society's problems has been registered by J. B. Priestly, British novelist and playwright. At one time Mr. Priestly considered that security was one of man's great rights. Now he asks:

"What relation to their work have the happiest men you know? Women and children need security; but do men, real men? How many persons whom you respect prefer minimum hours of work and plenty of passive amusement to the chance of working like blazes making something? Is our society becoming more flexible or less—and if you think more, have you tried starting anything good lately? Are there more rich, fiery, independent characters about? Are men's deepest needs being increasingly satisfied?"

They are questions more easily asked than answered, but they are worth asking all the same.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

And now comes a watchful soul who seeks the expulsion of Robin Hood from that part of public school studies. Countless pupils will remember him—that forest gallant who robbed the rich and helped out the poor. But today, it seems, Robin is a Communist.

"In another 25 years," remarks B. Gragg, general sales manager of air lines on this continent, "the shortest route from sea to sea will be the furthest north. But that was discovered long ago."

DOWN TEXAS WAY

"The reason a \$ won't do as much for people as it did once is that people will not do as much for a \$ as they once did." This has been found on a cafe in Texas. The proprietor had an idea.

Vancouver records the 34th fatality on the streets and makes a high and mighty resolve. This is all very well, but hasn't it a strangely familiar sound? Before this, hasn't death struck with chilling swiftness and life ebbed on hospital beds.

Eat a B.C. McIntosh today

As I See It



by
Elmore Philpott

Opening Day

OTTAWA: The formalities of the opening day of the 22nd Parliament are over.

The speech from the throne has been duly read. But unless the other 266 MPs have a lot better hearing than I have, they will have to wait to read the newspapers like any ordinary citizen to find out what was in the speech which the Governor-General read.

The Senate still lacks sound amplifiers and so the journey of the MP's to that upper chamber is a mere formality.

BACK in their own chamber, the Commons heard tributes to the late Gordon Graydon.

Graydon had a genius for friendship. It is now known that in a lifetime of public service he had accumulated literally nothing but goodwill.

That is just one of the reasons why it is common talk that the other parties are likely to give Mrs. Gordon Graydon election by acclamation in Peel county, which her husband represented since 1935.

THE POLITICAL PEOPLE here were naturally all worked up about the visit of President Eisenhower. They even went to great pains to find out the names of the President's favorite musical selections.

A RATHER laconic announcement by the Department of Transport carries an implication which might make child's play of most of the proposed work of the present parliament.

As I reported in my special series of articles from Los Angeles in September 1952 there is an overwhelming weight of evidence that there really may be something to the numerous reports of what the newspapers nicknamed "Flying Saucers."

In any event the government here has authorized the expenditure of a modest sum of money to set up a station which in a few months can debunk, or verify, the reports that mystery craft from some unknown quarter really have been giving this planet the once-over.

NOBODY in any high position has been talking to me out of turn. Nor do I hope to get any special inside government information.

But purely on the basis of adding up two and two to make four, I figure that either the United States or Britain, or both, passed on a gentle request to Canada to undertake this job. Moreover, my guess is that when the project was undertaken it was deliberately started right out in the open to forestall the sensational speculation and leaks that otherwise would have been a certain by-product of the enterprise.

Canada has a reputation, especially in the United States, of being steady-going, reliable, down to earth and even humorous. We take everything in our stride. So we have been given, or have taken on our own, the job of unmasking the most fascinating mystery of these times.

In less than a year, the hard-headed scientists who have been hired to do this job will have the answer.

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LETTERBOX

The Editor,

The Daily News:

I have read some real gems of whitewashing and issue-skirting articles in my short term on this earth, but your article which appeared on the front page of the News of November 13, entitled "Improvement Noted In Highway 16," by Mr. Bruce Brown, is the grand-daddy of them all.

No doubt the above-mentioned gentleman and all our interests at heart when he wrote to the Honorable Minister of Public Works regarding the condition of our highway, but he certainly was not showing the true picture or reasons for this condition which has prevailed all summer, on this road. However, although I am nothing but a dumb bus-driver, I still feel qualified to give the real reasons for the poor maintenance on this highway.

First, I wish to state and I do not think anyone who travels the road will disagree with me, that the road between Prince Rupert and Kwinitsa has usually been in fairly good condition, due to the fact that the Public Works graderman on this end is not afraid to work nor is he homesick by five o'clock, which seems to be a trait all too prevalent with the crew out of Terrace who are supposed to service the road from Kwinitsa to Terrace.

For almost one month this outfit, who by the way have three times the equipment that we have in this city, have failed to venture out with their graders and smooth out the road. Consequently when they finally did get around to working, the road was in such poor condition that the first time they went over it with graders, did little good.

This crew since, have made several half-hearted attempts to continue work on this section east of Kwinitsa, but I repeat, they have only been half-hearted attempts. I will elaborate and say they have done at least two and one-half miles now and then a day, but comes an hour or two (mostly two) from quitting time, and they are dashing madly back to Terrace, and to their comfortable firesides.

Now if as Mr. Gagliardi states, there is ample money provided for maintenance, pray tell me how the Terrace department accounts for the portion granted for this 40-mile stretch. Perhaps they are saving it for a down payment on the Klondike highway, which seems to be the upmost thought in the minds of all, who live in Terrace.

I can tell you that it is not in the thoughts of truck drivers and bus drivers who have to travel this stretch daily in order to make a living. Particularly when they have to take six to eight hours to make the trip from here to Terrace when they should normally only be on the road not more than four hours. And I am not taking into account the tire trouble, broken springs, rear-end breakdowns which are an every day part of their job (and expense) because of the lethargy shown by a few individuals who are paid to do

their job out of taxpayers' money. So please, let us have a few heads removed and perhaps we will be able to have the best possible gravel roads, not only for ourselves but for the tourist trade which we so sincerely wish to have. A copy of this untidy, but fairly civil letter, is being forwarded to the Honorable Minister of Public Works, just in case you good people decide it is too lurid to print.

DAN C. JONASON,
C.N.R. Bus Operator.

The Editor,

The Daily News:

Congratulations to Mrs. Ken J. Warren for her letter of November 9. It was frank and down to earth and should make the people of Prince Rupert sit up and "face the facts."

As for Alex Gordon's letter following—"Who does he think he's kidding?" Perhaps the union in question (UFAWU) does try to advance the interests of the Canadian people... but "In what way?" To go a little further, "Why, if this union is all it should be, was it found necessary to suspend it from the TLC?" It seems Mr. Gordon neglected to answer this.

I do not belong to any union and never have, but does that mean to say I and many more must sit back and take no interest in democracy?

Of course the "bread and butter" question is important. No one doubts that, but when our very way of life is threatened, that is more important, and as Mrs. Warren suggests, is the real issue!!

"OLD TIMER"

The Editor, Daily News:
In your editorial November 13 you call for sound leadership in council affairs.

For my part, I desire more than that. I want sound, honest leadership and I care not from what quarters it comes.

I also stand for peace and harmony, but not at any price.

I desire to serve the people, not deceive them. On these fundamentals I have always stood and will continue as long as I remain a member of the city council.

ALD. GEORGE B. CASEY.

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Britain's Export Trade Decreases in October

PARIS (Reuters)—West Germany's mounting industrial boom and Britain's slump in export trade are reflected in European trade statistics issued here today.

The European Payments Union, international clearing house for trade payments, recorded that during October Britain fell a further \$30,200,000 into the red with the E.P.U. bringing the total British deficit to \$822,400,000.

The October deficit is Britain's biggest in recent months and the highest deficit on the list.

At the other end of the list, West Germany maintained her position as the E.P.U.'s biggest creditor. The republic's bustling industry added another \$44,600,000 to its over-all surplus.

End Ordered For Fishing

SEATTLE (AP)—The State Fisheries Department has ordered commercial fishing to close in Puget Sound at midnight tonight.

The order was issued to permit proper escapement of the chum salmon run which is 50 per cent below normal this year. The department announced catch to date totals 100,000 chums. The closure, 14 days short of the normal season which ended June 15.



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