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Move for the Better

NEWS that City Clerk Bill Long is to draw up rules of procedure for the Prince Rupert Board of Parks Commissioners is not only most welcome but also a move that is long overdue. Any citizen who has attended a meeting of the Parks Board, and more citizens should, might well wonder if the group functioned under any rules of order at all. And if such confusion exists in the board's public meetings it follows that in their dealings with the city the commissioners are equally "bewitched, bothered and bewildered."

The commissioners are sincere, hard-working members of the public who were elected to fill public office and are doing the best they know how. But the fact that the board's \$20,000 budget needed reshuffling only a month after the city's budget was brought down, is enough to shock the most disinterested citizen. Repeated under-estimation of parks board projects, with no enlightenment from the city engineering department, has placed the parks commissioners in a most embarrassing situation, for which they are not entirely to blame.

Considerable of the onus for the situation which has arisen lies on the shoulders of the City Council. When the parks board handed over its works crews to the city and adopted the role of policy-making, the city council should have clearly defined the board's new duties.

An established routine for both parks board and city departments to follow in regard to all parks projects will greatly improve matters. Not only will city works crews not continue on parks jobs after the money allotted for them has been spent, but projects that might prove too costly could be postponed until the parks board has more money. A definite set of rules with which to work will result in far better relations between the commissioners and the city superintendent and his works crews and save much unpleasantness on both sides.

With the handing over of a city-devised standard of procedure to the commissioners the public can look forward to a far more stable and better-regulated parks program, of which they can be justly proud.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

A former Prime Minister, Hon. Arthur Meighen, is now 80 and going strong as ever. His home is in Toronto, and generally speaking, his interests have become somewhat modified. These are reported to be his family, his business and the Salvation Army. Well, a city like Toronto should have any number of first class corners.

TIME TO RETIRE

The press is constantly reminding us that there's so much less of McCarthyism. When the public starts ridiculing a crank, he's just about finished. Stanford students gave an order to turn out thousands of buttons bearing the words "McCarthy for Fuhrer." That's turning the trick.

For a country that was hit by a lot of extra powerful bombs a few days ago, Canada, we are able to say has made an amazing recovery.

Instruments having a valuation of \$1,497 are reported missing from a Vancouver music store. It's possible the number would be sufficient to start a band. This, however, is the point! Where can one find the greatest pain or pleasure?

"Heat Persists in U.S. Areas." Could we borrow a little, please?

IT'S NOT NEW

Aluminum cooking utensils are harmless although statements to the contrary were first heard a long time ago. The matter came up again in Vancouver at the convention of the Canadian Medical Association.

EXPLAINS TREATMENT

Montreal has a faith healer, Jos Anatole Desposse who was involved in a Vancouver police court case. Magistrate Dohm intimated it gave him regret to have to admit he could not fine Desposse more than \$100, the maximum penalty. "I feel," said the court, "it's entirely inadequate when you consider the despicable manner in which the defendant attempted to obtain money." The faith healer, after he obtains the people's money,

will think of them, and offer prayer. This, he states, is what he tells them. It is his form of treatment.

A part-time system of retailing in British Columbia has been going on for some considerable time. This, and many another little bothersome and uncertain question, Mr. Citizen, is offered this week. What about that amendment in the Shop Regulations Act?

FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL

It is still quite true that the coal miner with his daily wage of 19.60 is one of the highest paid workers in any basic industry. But less publicized detail is also true that were 30 years ago, 700,000 workers were employed in U.S. coal mines, today with industry tripled or quadrupled 265,000 workers remain satisfied with two or three work days a week. That's all that's left of the 70,000 of yesterday.

It's hard to be good when you'd much prefer to be yourself.

What is so rare as a day in June—when it's warm?

What is known, as a pound does not appear to last long in Prince Rupert. The pound ceases to exist but dogs do not. A lot of us are dog owners and it must be admitted that at least the most of them are alive to their responsibilities. Yet plenty of bow wows are running wild. That of course, can happen when he no longer has a home.

Pioneer Dies

HIGH RIVER, Alta. — J. L. Lem Sexsmith, one of a pioneer family that settled here in 1833, died at age 82. He came by wagon when High River was still known by the Indian name of "Spitzie," meaning "the crossing."

OPTOMETRIST
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As I See It



by
*Elmore
Philoott*

WVA and OAP

IN THE last days of the 1954 session of parliament MPs of all parties united to urge the government to raise the War Veterans Allowance, above the present level of \$50 per month.

It came out very clearly in the discussion that the original idea of this grant was that it was supposed to be an old age pension, granted at an earlier date than civilians' old age pension on the ground that war service had "burnt out" or prematurely aged many of the ex-service people.

Now there is great confusion over the two kinds of grant. Many of the men and women drawing WVA feel a deep sense of grievance when, on reaching age 70, they automatically begin to receive the universal Old Age Security cheques of \$40 per month.

As soon as that happens the War Veterans Allowance of \$50 per month is cut down whatever amount is necessary to keep the total permitted income at \$80 per month—or \$720 per year.

THE men and women on WVA cannot always understand why they cannot draw both the WVA of \$50 per month and the Old Age Security of \$40 per month. Their confusion and indignation is all the deeper because war veterans drawing disability pensions also draw the full Old Age Security cheques of \$40 per month without any deduction.

It seems to me that the best way out of the present difficulty would be to raise the ceiling on permitted WVA income from the present limit of \$720 per year to \$1020 per year. That would automatically make the people drawing WVA eligible to draw the full \$40 per month Old Age Security, without any deductions whatsoever.

IT IS always easy to be wise after the event. It probably would have been better, when Canada set up the system of Old Age Security pensions at age 70, to grant those pensions to all those then eligible for WVA and simultaneously to abolish the WVA test altogether.

That would have meant that an elderly ex-soldier, worn out by the wear and tear of war service, and later life, would have automatically come off the Old Age Security at say age 60, instead of age 70. It would also have meant that the means test could have been completely and permanently abolished for all such persons.

It would be more difficult to make that change now because the WVA grant is \$50 per month and the Old Age Security is only \$40.

ONE of the great difficulties in the working out of a pension system for old age payments, both for ordinary civilians and ex-service people, is that there is such a wide variation in the actual amounts.

The WVA is set at \$50 per month. But in B.C. and Alberta ordinary civilians can and do draw \$55 per month Old Age Assistance grants at age 55, on the same kind of means test as applies to WVA.

In Saskatchewan the Old Age Pensioner, on means test, must live on about \$43 per month. Elsewhere, including Ontario—the richest province in Canada—old people must try to eke out an existence on \$40 per month.

Ship Bill Sent To U.S. Senate

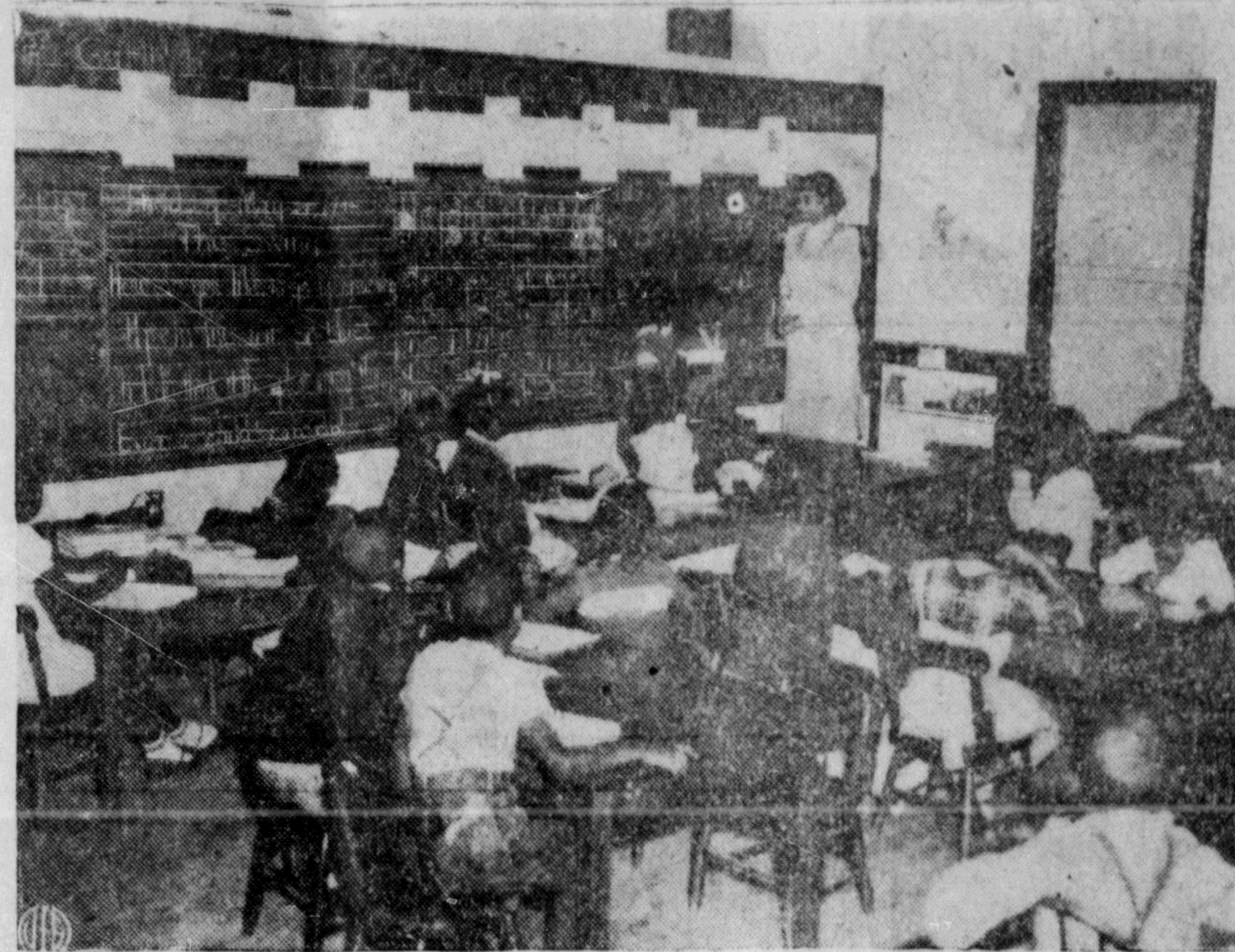
WASHINGTON — House passage sent to the White House Tuesday a bill extending until June 30, 1955, permission for Canadian vessels to operate between Haines, Skagway and Hyder, Alaska, and other points in the territory of the United States.

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THIRD-GRADE CHILDREN study arithmetic in Atlanta's C. W. Hill School, which is typical of the city's Negro institutions. The U.S. Supreme Court ruling banning school segregation in the South is expected to make little change in the Atlanta school system, authorities say. Residential areas are so divided as to race, either all Negro or all white, that all children attending school in a district are likely to be of the same race.

Variety of Posts Seen For Top Cabinet Members

By FOSTER ARCLAY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Political pundits around Parliament hill now are engaged in one of their favorite pastimes — shuffling the cabinet.

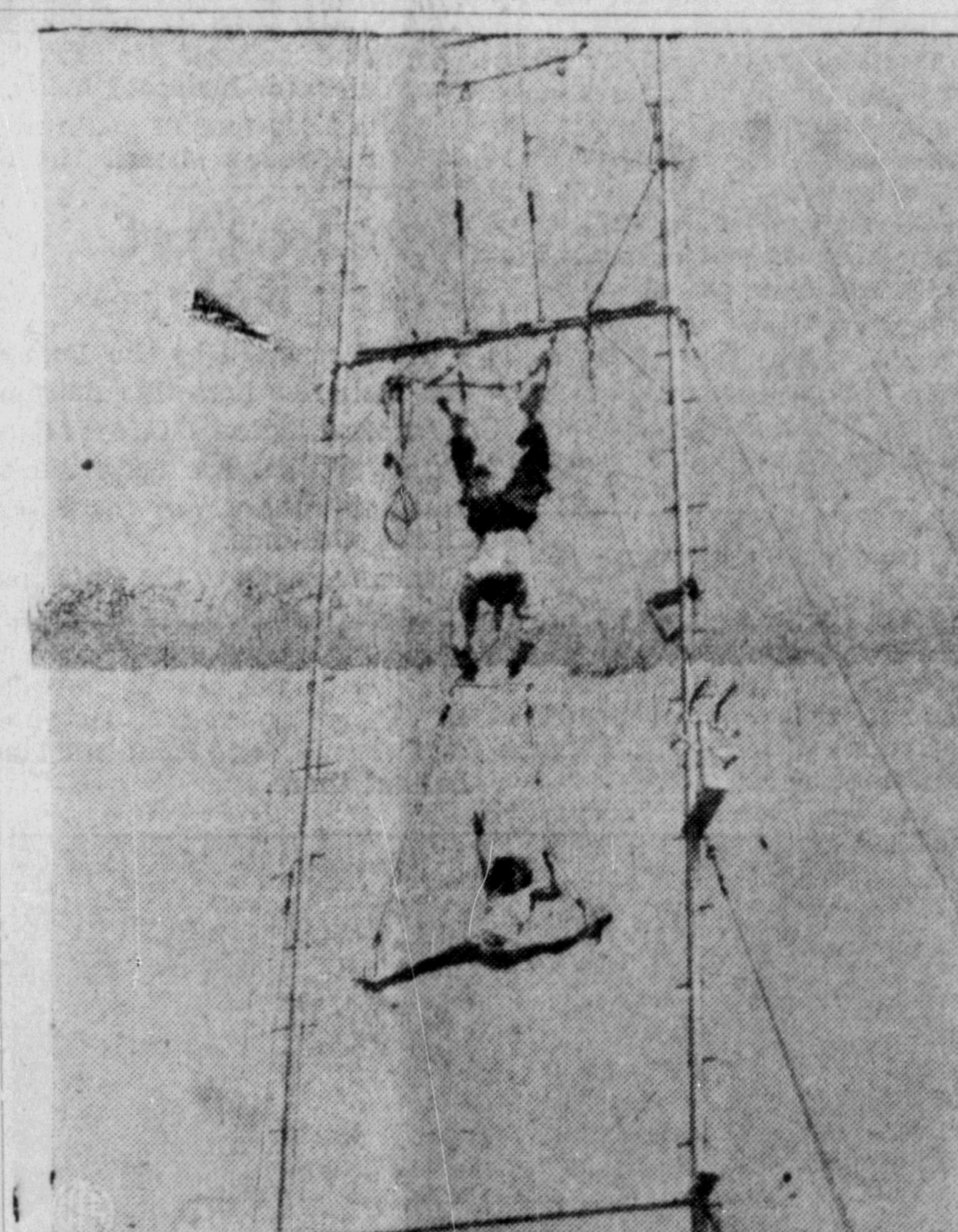
Likehood of a shuffle has been bandied about since last April after Finance Minister Abbott said he had brought down his 10th and last budget.

The pundits agree about one thing—that there will be a shuffle. Unanimity ends there. Some say it will be done in one quick upheaval; others that it will come in two stages—a minor shift now and a bigger rearrangement before members gather again in the fall.

It's impossible to sort fact from fancy.

GARSON SAID HAPPY

Let's start with 55-year-old Mr. Abbott. The gossip has three versions: that he will become chief justice of the Supreme Court, succeeding Hon. Thibaudeau Rinfret who retired today; that he will become a junior member of the court with Hon. Roy L. Kellock becoming chief justice; that he will switch jobs with either Justice Minister Garson or Revenue Minister McCann.



AS HER FATHER, Dave Winnie holds the Roman bars, attached to a leather strap, in his mouth. Tiny Patsy Winnie does a split, 75 feet above the crowds at Pallasades Amusement Park in New Jersey. Patsy, along with her mother, Dolly Winnie, and father, perform twice daily on the Roman bars of the 102-foot-high steel rigging.

BEAR TAKES A CHILD

ATHENS — A huge bear seized a baby from its cradle at the edge of a field where its parents were at work near Kalam-baka, Greece, today and disappeared with it into a nearby forest, reports to the Greek capital said.

Few Complaints About Pegler Claims Editor

NEW YORK — Westbrook Pegler's managing editor said Tuesday his readers lodge few objections with the newspaper against the vitriolic columnist.

"If they do, they must protest to him directly," said Sam Day. "We get very few complaints."

Day is managing editor of the New York Journal-American, New York outlet for Pegler's syndicated Hearst column.

Day said a lawyer once over Pegler's columns for "beef" and that he, himself, reads them for suitability.

The newspaper editor was a defence witness in a \$500,000 libel suit against Pegler by writer Quentin Reynolds.

In a 1949 column Pegler called Reynolds "yellow" and "an absentee war correspondent." In denying the allegations, Reynolds complained that Pegler also pictured him as a part-time nudist and a pro-Communist.

After two weeks on the witness stand in his own defence, Pegler stepped down Tuesday.

TESTIMONY BACKED UP

Pegler's wife, Julie, and his nephew, Arthur, testified to seeing Reynolds in the nude on occasions, thus backing up the columnist's testimony.

Another witness, Mrs. Ariane Ross, widow of the editor of the New Yorker magazine, offered testimony to back Pegler's contention that Reynolds proposed marriage to Mrs. Connie Brown, widow of columnist Heywood Brown.

Pegler contended Reynolds proposed during the funeral of Brown.

Mrs. Ross said Mrs. Brown told her of such a proposal among several from Reynolds.

Earlier in the trial, Mrs. Brown denied under oath that Reynolds proposed to her during the funeral.

Man Who Planned Big Attack Defence Chief

TOKYO — A Japanese navy captain who mapped the air strategy for the attack on Pearl Harbor will be the chief planner for Japan's new air force, press reports said today.

Newspapers said the appointment of Sadamu Sanagi to the important post would be announced about July 1.

Sanagi was chief of air attack strategy when the plans for the blow at Pearl Harbor were being prepared. He is one of a number of former professional military men who will help direct the enlargement of Japan's land, sea and air forces, which has been encouraged by the United States.

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OTTAWA DIARY

To the two minor national parties in the House of Commons—the CCF and the Social Credit—the Parliamentary session now ending has brought high hopes and disappointment respectively.

The CCF have always believed that their ardent hopes for power probably would have to wait for hard times in order to be realized. Hence the excitement amongst them over the indications of the past several months that the economic pendulum might be on the turn at long last from prosperity to problem times.

It isn't that the CCFers are anxious to witness depression. Leader M. J. Coldwell and the rank-and-file MPs who follow him are far too good Canadians for that. If depression should come they will be just as concerned about it as either of the old-line parties and just as anxious to do something effective to raise it.

The difference between the CCF and the old-line parties is simply that, whereas the PCs and the Liberals are wedded to the modern and still unproven idea that governments can avert depressions indefinitely by fiscal policies and economic planning, the Socialists believe that under the capitalist system depressions are inevitable. They are simply the more severe when they come if they are delayed.

In addition, the Socialists sincerely believe that the only real cure for depression lies in Socialist economic doctrine.

Holding these views, the CCF all through the years of the boom have played a patient, waiting game. They have kept their Socialist faith whole and uncorrupted for the day of their destiny that they felt certain would dawn eventually. The present session has strengthened their belief that it now may be near at hand. They are satisfied that they are ready for it. Amongst no other group in the House does confidence in their ability to fulfil their mission run higher.

They figure that when the political swing does come to them, it will come fast.

For the Social Creditors Federal politics has become a holding war. The followers of the able and shrewd Solon Low seem to realize that they have lost the magic which invested them after they took over British Columbia.

GEORGE DAWES

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