

Independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

Subscription Rates: By carrier—Per week, 25c; per month \$1.00; per year, \$10.00

Make Safety A Habit

BESIDES performing their function as signals for motorists and pedestrians, the new traffic lights on Third Avenue can serve as a reminder next month that May is National Safety Month.

Experts in the field say that safety is mostly attitude. Wake up in the morning with a smile, they claim, and the chances of reaching the office with our car or physique in an equally agreeable condition are very much improved.

But attitude is an elusive quality. There is no way of guaranteeing that the necessary smile will be at one's command when the alarm goes off. Even if the world is particularly bright on a certain morning, the car driver or pedestrian in question has often reached the office before he is sufficiently awake to realize it.

The experts concede the point and therefore go on to add that the most effective safety measure is education. The theory is that if the public is made sufficiently aware of the perils of motor traffic and the way to avoid them, safety will become not an attitude but a habit.

The Canadian Automobile Chamber of Commerce puts it this way:

"Safety is a painstaking proposition of instilling in people the truth of the old maxim that 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' It is a community problem. In many cities throughout Canada last year, property damage caused by automobile accidents exceeded by far the total police force budgets. Safety is everybody's big business.

"Approximately 92 per cent of traffic accidents are caused by the errors of drivers and the remaining eight per cent by faulty mechanism of automobiles. Nevertheless, if only a fraction of the three million-odd motor vehicles in Canada are safety-checked during May, there is bound to be a progressive reduction of preventable accidents—a substantial advance on the road to a safety-conscious Canadian public."

It is a good suggestion and, for their own well-being, pedestrians and cyclists should be equally conscientious about taking precautions.

Through their Scotch-lite campaigns for cars and bicycles, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Parent-Teacher Associations have done much locally to promote the idea. It is in the personal interest of everyone to take heed.

Scripture Passage for Today

"I heard the voice of many angels round the throne." —Rev. 5:11.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

One trouble today is that so many people try to learn the tricks of the trade instead of learning the trade.

The province's attorney-general, Mr. Bennett, is on his way to Ottawa to tell the government something not new. He says the Sons of Freedom have been the west's troublemakers for half a century. And of course, a federal election is pending, of course!

Comic Relief—When the life of the party goes home.

When a grain elevator at Prince Rupert was first urged on Ottawa, the idea met with many a rebuff from members. It was plain there was a lot of misinformation. One day Benny Benson, pioneer photographer, and a reporter strolled down to the lonely looking water front and took a good picture of the elevator site, along with all kinds of harbor. Numerous copies of that long ago photo were sent to Ottawa. Evidently it was scrutinized more than once.

Five British admirals are learning horseback. A new and a painful process is reported to be in progress. They will ride in the Coronation parade, directly behind Her Majesty, with the nation confident all will do their duties.

OUR FISH Hecate Strait sometimes warns up the pages of Hansard. Last month, for example, Mr.

Appelwhite (Skeema) and Mr. R. C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra) had plenty to say. The latter observed that off Hecate Straits were considered territorial waters, then the Japanese fleet nor Russians could come in and fish there, nor could the U.S. without consent.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

Eight Children Lose Lives in Fire

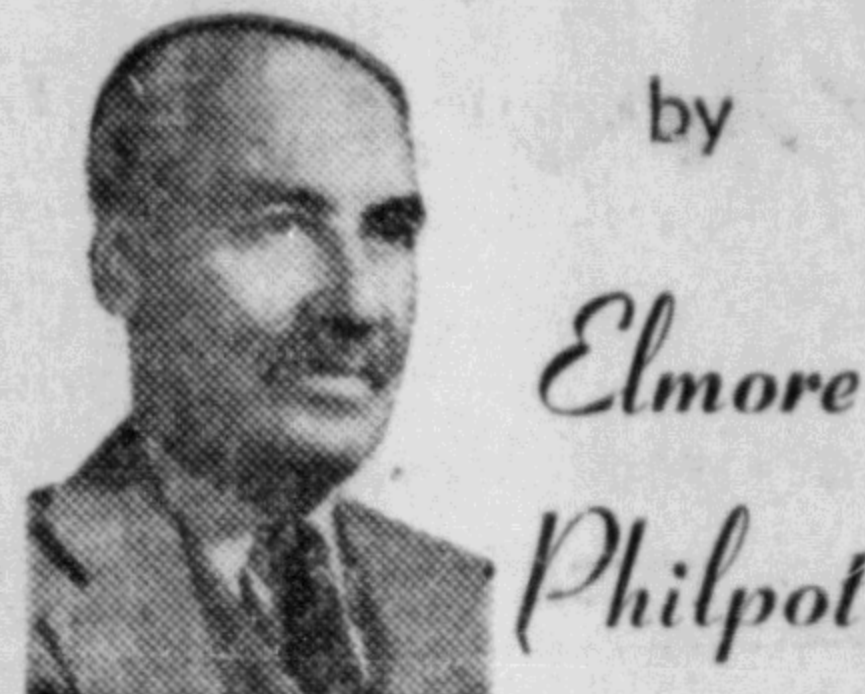
SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont.—Eight children were burned to death when fire destroyed a four-room frame home in neighboring Tarentorous township.

Dead are Dorothy 7, Reginald 5, Clifford 4, Eleanor 3 and John 1 1/2, all children of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Derry; and Wilma 14, Marion 10 and Diane 9, children of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Trudell.

The Trudell children were visiting the Derry children overnight. Mr. Derry woke to find pipes from a wood-burning stove had fallen during the night and the floor and walls of the room were in flames. He and his wife were able to crawl through the front bedroom window to safety.

Light snow was falling as Mr. Derry ran naked back to the blazing home in an effort to save the screaming children, but he was restrained by neighbors.

As I See It



Premier on Hot Spot

GEORGE MILLER, veteran Vancouver alderman and MLA, knows more about municipal finance and school taxes than anybody else in B.C. public life.

He shows with crystal clarity that the Social Credit school tax formula would mean \$30 per year extra taxes for the average Vancouver home owner.

Municipalities would lose their guaranteed one third out of the provincial sales tax. They would get a sliding grant from the government based on the 1952 budget—plus the Rolston formula.

A Vancouver family living in a \$7000 home would have to pay \$30 per year extra taxes by 1956.

THE MOST detailed, reasoned criticism of the Rolston school formula is in the March issue of the "B.C. Teacher," official organ of the Teachers' Federation.

It shows that the Rolston formula would "perpetuate past discrepancies between school districts." Since the government's grant is now to be based on the actual operating budget for 1952 of the individual school district, the district which has had to economize to the detriment of its school standards is "compelled to continue to do so, while the district that spent freely in 1952 is subsidized in continuing to do so."

The teachers' magazine gives some glaring examples to show how the Rolston formula would actually help most of the districts which need help the least.

MEANWHILE the Social Credit MLA from Salmon Arm who made the sensational attack on the Effective Living course in B.C. schools has thus put his own leader, Mr. Bennett, on the hot spot.

"The premier told me in caucus that I had done a good thing, and that he was behind me 100 per cent," Mr. Reid declared.

In view of the fact that Hon. Tilly Rolston repudiated Mr. Reid's charges on the floor of the House immediately after he had made them—the people of B.C. will surely want the whole truth.

Granted that Mr. Reid may have been a bit excited when he made this latest revelation. He was faced by a crowd of indignant constituents, some of whom charged that he had disgraced the name of Salmon Arm by his astounding speech in the Legislature.

Mr. Reid now says in effect that his own leader, the Sacred Premier, was a party to a dubious game of double talk; that while he was publicly giving the public the impression that he deplored the Reid attack on the Effective Living course, privately he was "behind me 100 per cent." Is it true or false?

MR. REID also claims "he had conducted a personal investigation in Vancouver and Victoria schools and had students' notes which he wouldn't read publicly, but which he had shown to the Premier, Mrs. Rolston, and every Social Credit MLA."

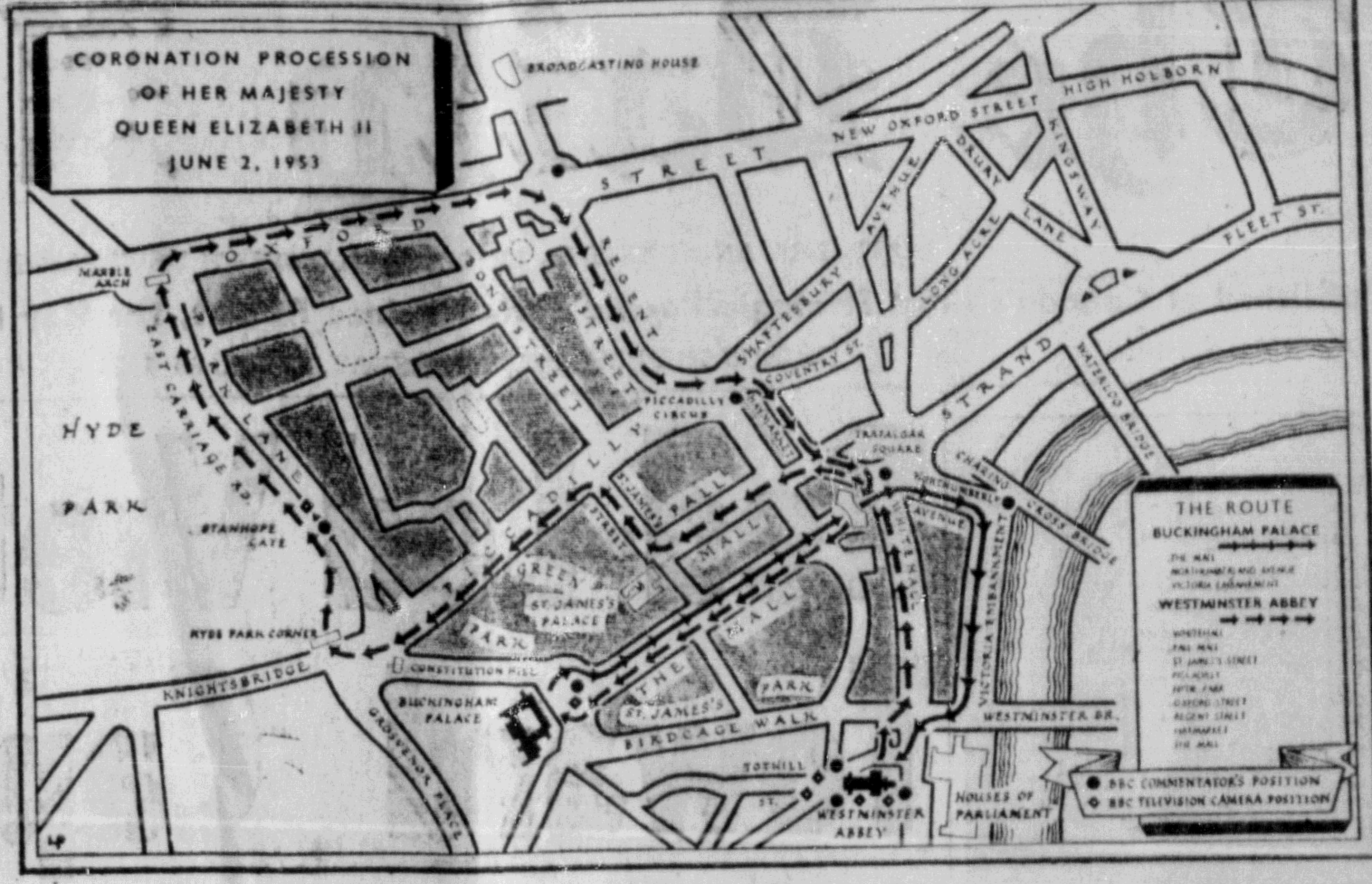
Mr. Reid has already said too much to be allowed to stop. The public should know whether or not the new "revelations" are just a smoke screen behind which to put through the Social Credit school tax boosts. It may or may not be pure coincidence that the Vancouver schools which are hit by Mr. Reid's new insinuations are also hardest hit by the Rolston formula.

Bennett Raps Liberal Group

VICTORIA (CP)—Premier W. A. C. Bennett, head of British Columbia's Social Credit administration, charged that the Liberal Progressive government in Manitoba fears Social Credit.

He said in an interview that the fear of Social Credit was responsible for the Manitoba government setting its election date for June 8, one day before the B.C. provincial election.

"This date has been set deliberately," said Mr. Bennett, "as a piece of political manipulation. It follows exactly the same line of strategy the socialists (CCF) used in Saskatchewan last year when they held their election the day before B.C.'s. This shows clearly it is an action of fear."



VICTORIA REPORT By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—The election this year won't be quite so costly as last year's. This year there's no new voters' list, and that saves a lot of money. Too, this year, it's not necessary to advertise so extensively the whys and wherefores of the alternative system of voting. The government figures if the electorate doesn't know all about it now, it never will.

Last year the election cost \$750,000; this year the cost should be held down to about \$500,000.

Organization of a general election is a tremendous undertaking. There are some mighty expenses: 3,000 deputy returning officers at \$12.50 for election

day; 3,000 poll clerks at \$10; hundreds of supervising deputies returning officers at \$15; dozens of special constables at \$8. If you rent your house for a polling division you get \$12 for the day, for one ballot box, and \$6 for each additional box.

In addition there are 41 returning officers. No one seems quite sure how much they get. They work six weeks or two months, so it's considerable, but the fees are not made public.

It seems now that Liberal Mr. Straith was right when he said at the recent session that if he could find out when milk prices will be decontrolled, he'd be able to tell the date of the election. Mr. Straith insisted that the election would be a week after controls go. He tried to smoke out Agriculture Minister Kenneth Kiernan to this effect, but Mr. Kiernan wouldn't be smoked out.

There have been rumors recently milk price control would go May 1. Now it appears it will be delayed to June 1—and the election will be June 9, so Mr. Straith wasn't far out in his suspicion. Mr. Straith was sure, at the session, and still is, probably, that lifting of milk price controls is just one big Social Credit bribe to the electorate.

Chief Justice Gordon Sloan is being sworn in this week as administrator of government affairs during the absence at the Coronation of Lieut-Governor Clarence Wallace. His Honor and his wife, with Mrs. Wallace's private secretary and her personal maid, sail in mid-May from New York in the liner Queen Mary and, in London, will put up at exclusive Dorchester House in Park Lane. They'll be back by June 30.

This is the fourth Coronation at which British Columbia has been officially represented. In 1838, when Victoria was crowned, there was no British Columbia. In 1902 Premier and Mrs. James Dunsmuir went to the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra; in 1911 Premier and Mrs. Richard McBride were at the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary; in 1937 Lieut-governor and Mrs. Eric Hamber were in Westminster Abbey for the crowning of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

INCOME TAX QUIZ

Albert can never reconcile himself to seeing the MP's depart. He's part-businessman and part-sentimentalist. And both traits in his make-up feel aggrieved when the calendar brings the annual season of hopeful "au revoirs," mixed with the sprinkling of final "good-bys" from the MP's who know or suspect that they won't be returning.

Albert is a firm opponent of short Parliamentary sessions. His views run directly contrary to the general trend of popular opinion in respect to their contention that Parliament's main defect isn't that the MP's talk too much, but rather that they talk too little.

"Some MP's," Albert complains occasionally to Artie, "don't hardly talk at all. Well, how are the voters to know whether these guys are fit for their jobs or not?"

When Albert gives out with the wisdom in this fashion, non-descript Artie generally manages to assume an attitude suggestive of a deferential old family retainer. Actually, he's not too deeply impressed. He suspects that his boss is too much of a philosopher to be a really effective man of the world. But he rarely contradicts him.

But this occasion was one of the exceptions. Artie pondered Albert's logic for a suitable interval. Then he replied: "Boss, I couldn't agree less. Most of those guys just wouldn't be smart to talk more than they do. Better they should open their mouths just for fly-traps, than open them to put both feet in them."

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

As the end of each session approaches, the atmosphere around the bar in Alberts place grows steadily gayer. The MP's who resort there seem almost as relaxed when they enter as when they leave an hour or so later after taking their accustomed treatment of Albert's Magic Mixture.

Actually, it's the one season of the Parliamentary year when the round trip in Albert's does not go again—with an appropriate interval for the pause that refreshes—can't be defended on strictly therapeutic grounds. The customer-MP's already feel good when they arrive.

As a psychologist whose practical experience is a sound substitute for his lack of any formal academic degrees, Albert understands the seasonal breakdown mood of the MP's with expert sympathy.

"MP's when the session is ending," he confides sagely to Artie, his melancholy day-dreaming waiter, "are just like a lot of school boys at holiday time. Only instead of behaving like school boys, they come to Albert's."

And that may very well be the reason why the exiting legislators have never stopped on their way off Parliament Hill to take turns firing the noon cannon at midnight, to chuck the mace into the Rideau Canal, or to hoist the Speaker's Chair to the top of the Parliamentary flagpole.

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Political leaders this year are not making the exhausting province-wide tours that were made last campaign. Premier Bennett isn't bothering with places he's positive will go Social Credit, or places he feels sure Social Credit can't take from the CCF. He's concentrating on those ridings he thinks he might take away from the CCF, such as Revelstoke, and places that might turn their backs on Social Credit—such as Salmon Arm and Prince George. He's going to spend a lot of time in Vancouver City and on Vancouver Island. That's where he'd like some seats—on the Island. Last election, I did not elect one Social Creditor. Mr. Bennett is determined to change that.

Salmon Arm is bound to be a hot spot. That's the home riding of Social Creditor J. A. Reid, who started the rumpus about education. Mr. Reid said the other day that the Premier approved what he said, which was a shock to the Premier. Said Mr. Reid: "The Premier told me in caucus I had done a good thing, and that he was behind me 100 per cent." Doesn't Mr. Reid know MLAs aren't supposed to run around talking about what went on in caucus, even after they're no longer MLAs? The new Reid statement has added to the confusion, for an hour after Mr. Reid had spoken in the House, Education Minister Rolston, on behalf of the government, repudiated Mr. Reid and most of what he said about B.C. education.

Coronation Announcer LONDON (CP)—Bernard Braden, native of Vancouver who has become popular in the British entertainment world, will be one of the corps of television announcers for the BBC during the Coronation proceedings.

LETTERBOX

The Editor, The Daily News: As there is little use for me to argue against the solid seven mass mind prevailing in city council where one alderman does the thinking for all, including the mayor, therefore my only recourse is an appeal to the public. Being deadily opposed to the per diem rate of \$17.50 per day recently established, plus traveling expense in transportation, something must be done about it.

We yell our heads off about the 5 per cent increase awarded the firemen, but waste more money in obtaining so-called expert opinion on simple common sense questions, and joy rides of city officials, than a 5 per cent increase to all workers would amount to in a year.

Play To Be Staged In Abbey June 10

LONDON (CP)—The first play to be staged in Westminster Abbey since the Reformation will be presented for three weeks starting June 10 in aid of the £1,000,000 fund for preservation of the ancient church.

The play will be "Out of the Whirlwind" by Christopher Hassall, noted British dramatist, poet and musician.

The author describes the play as a modern version of the Biblical story of Job. But Job's counterpart in the play is a British woman called Martha, and Hassall presents seven stages in her life, from her wedding in 1914 to her death in the autumn of 1951, against a background of conflicts that beset Britain during that period. References to Westminster Abbey recur throughout the play.

The Coronation dais including the site of the throne in which the Queen will receive homage after her crowning will be within the acting area for the play.

Aids Sufferers

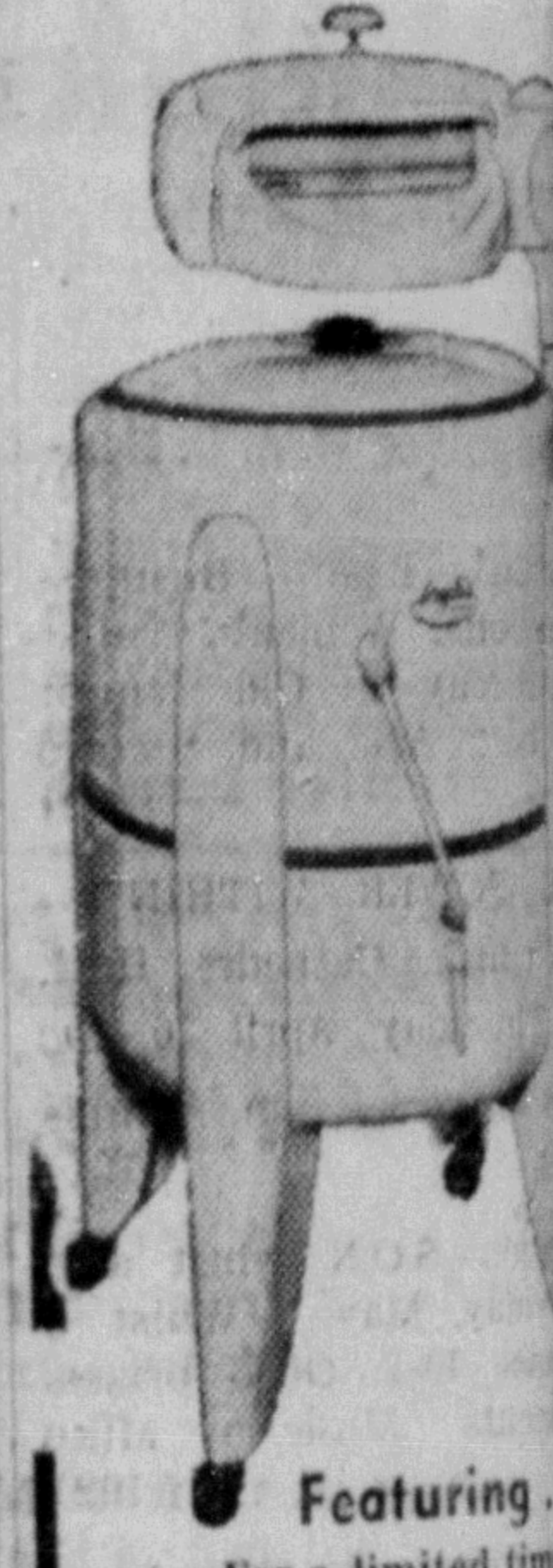
CAPETOWN (CP)—First of its kind in South Africa, a modern cancer clinic was opened here. The clinic, equipped with the latest equipment from Europe and America, was built by voluntary contributions.

WANTED

Salesman to handle nice line of cowboy-style belts and buckles, also dress lines. Will sell outright or on commission. Reply Box 664. Daily News.

NEW STOCK... LOW - LOW PRICES. MEN'S JACKETS, Popular styles, from \$14.50. BOYS' JACKETS, new designs, from \$10.25. See the Boys' Health Jacket by Pape. THE SPORTS SHOP.

BIG FEET! Sir: If you wear a size 9 1/2, 10, 10 1/2 or 11 you have the choice of NEOLITE SOLES, CREPE SOLES, LUG SOLES. Regularly priced up to \$12.95. Reduced to Clear at only \$4.95 per pair. MEN'S WORK OXFORD \$6.95. Plain Toe, Red Rubber Sole. SPECIAL. FAMILY SHOE STORE Ltd. Box 638. CHARLIE ROBERTS. Phone 357.



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