

Tuesday, May 27, 1952

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.  
Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association  
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited  
J. F. MAGOR, President H. G. FERRY, Vice-President

Subscription Rates:  
By carrier — Per week, 25c; per month \$1.00; per year, \$10.00  
By mail — Per month, 75c; per year, \$8.00  
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

## Main Item: Free Enterprise

IN THE current election campaign we believe that several highly publicized but basically minor issues have been allowed to obscure the real decision that voters must make on June 12. In spite of all the red herrings, flying bricks and sound effects, the decision to be made is simply whether we want government or private control of our industrial life.

Beside this big single question, every other subject of debate is comparatively unimportant. On the type of control finally chosen depends the prosperity of the whole province and, in turn, that of almost every individual in it.

We believe that B.C. is too young and too naturally powerful to surrender its manhood to the ministrations of the government. State control may have its place in a country's old age or in adolescent distress, such as Saskatchewan's droughts, where some artificial stimulus of the economic organs is needed.

But this condition applies probably less to B.C. than to any other piece of country in the world.

Social Credit, with its monetary reforms which it has not the authority to apply and its limited experience, does not appeal to us as the solution.

The choice, as we see it, lies between the Liberals and Conservatives. Both are pledged to free enterprise and both are in a position to sustain the boom now resounding in B.C.

The question, then, is which to choose. We suggest this as an answer:

Forget the minor differences in their platforms and give your first choice to the man of either party who, by his brains and character, is best qualified to do the job.

## Scripture Passage for Today

"A certain priest . . . when he saw him, passed by."  
—St. Luke 10:31

## Report From . . .

## Parliament Hill

By Edward T. Applewhite, M.P., Skeena

The Department of Transport is the department responsible for the Dominion Government Telegraph and Telephone Service. When introducing his estimates a few days ago, speaking on the tele-communications division, Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, had this to say:

"While I am on that, I think I should communicate to the house that the expansion in the interior part of British Columbia has reached such a stage that the government is of the opinion that a commercial company should now provide telephone and telegraph facilities in that area. We do not feel the federal government should be the agency to serve the public in well developed and industrial areas."

"Arrangements will be made to dispose of our facilities in British Columbia to any commercial company which may be interested in continuing the operation as it presently exists, and at a standard of service no lower than is provided at the present time."

In my opinion the telegraph service will be taken over by the Canadian National Telegraphs.

## FISH EXPORT

To some of my readers, at least, the matter of Canadian fish exports is one of interest and importance. The figures for the first two months of 1952 compared with the same in 1951 do not paint too happy a picture. The export of all fish products fell from \$21,100,000 to \$19,310,000; our exports of fish products to the U.S.A. dropped from \$14,210,000 to \$14,140,000 while that to other countries fell from \$6,890,000 to \$5,170,000; our export of fresh and frozen fish is down from \$8,300,000 to \$7,980,000.

"Fresh and frozen" show a varied pattern. There was a drop of \$410,000 in whole or dressed fish but an increase of \$90,000 in the exports of filleted fish. Canned fish exports were down from \$242 million to \$167 million, of which salmon accounts for a drop of \$780,000. There were a few cheerful spots, exports of shellfish (other than lobster) were up \$10,000 and exports of fish meal rose from \$1.15 million to \$1.96 million.

## ABOUT THE SENATE

I don't often mention the Senate in these letters. The Senate does a lot more work, you know, than just passing divorce bills. The Senate recently has been discussing bills of interest to British Columbia, the Canadian

National Railway (Terrace to Kitimat) Bill, and the New Westminster Harbor Commissioner's Bill. They have had several bills this year respecting insurance companies — new incorporations and amendments to charters. Senator Gershaw of Alberta sponsored a measure to amend the Industrial Development Bank Act. This is an act which was passed in the year 1944 for the purpose of encouraging industrial development. It is proposed in this amending bill that a person who is engaged in an industrial enterprise "or commercial air service" may apply for a loan and receive consideration. At present, the Act does not cover air services.

Hon. "Mike" Pearson introduced the bill to provide for carrying into effect the treaty of peace between Canada and Japan, with a short but impressive statement. He dealt, very briefly, with one or two of the points that have been raised by the opposition. Stanley Knowles had mentioned the question of penalties which might be imposed under the bill. Such penalties might attach to acts of Canadians who did not respect, for example, diplomatic property. A somewhat similar situation might arise if, after an inter-governmental settlement of war claims some Canadian sued in a Canadian court to recover a war claim.

At long last, Hon. Robert H. Winters has been able to announce the signing of an agreement between the Dominion and the province of Nova Scotia for construction under the terms of the Trans-Canada Highway Act, the route of the trans-Canada highway through Nova Scotia. That now leaves Quebec the only province not yet in the agreement.

**EXTEND SERVICE**  
REGINA (CP) — The Saskatchewan government has undertaken a program to extend electric service to 1,000 new customers in towns and on farms. The electrification expansion is estimated to cost \$8,000,000.

## UNDER OUR ROOF

By JOHN STURDY

My wife and I have been living in the shed since our guests took over the house.

I must say that we fought against the eviction. I'll never forget the day when these characters from Back East arrived on our island — Hamish, the assistant janitor of my old apartment-house, and Little Augie, the blind-pig king, and Col. S. Skeffington-Smuts (Ret.) and his bride, Anastasia.

My family and I took up a defensive position in the living-room, resolved to hold our home against the attackers. It was a losing battle from the start, or perhaps I just didn't have the heart to turn them out into the night, because the first thing we knew the guests had the house and we were in the shed.

I remember my wife saying, "Well, they'll only stay for a couple of days."

Poor, deluded woman! She made that optimistic statement on September 15, 1951. We are still in the shed.

My wife does get in the kitchen now and again, usually to do the dishes. She very seldom gets near the stove to cook anything on account of Anastasia is usually there preparing curry and rice for her husband, the Colonel. (They first met in India, you know), but I suppose I've been carrying too much weight, anyway.

Now and again I personally venture into the abode that we used to call home, and usually the guests are very polite to me and murmur, "Good morning" (I suppose my face is vaguely familiar to them) and this particular morning I happened to run into Hamish. He was carrying several large wrenches and a variety of other tools, and with a curt nod in my direction he disappeared into the utility room.

Now I have known Hamish for a long time, ever since the little man was assistant janitor in my old apartment house Back East, and I knew the terrible things he could do with a monkey wrench. When I heard a thunderous changing and banging from the utility room, I must have turned pale.

I collared Hamish on the way out. "What are you doing to my house, Hamish?" I demanded.

He regarded me blandly. "Fixing a few things," he said.

"What things?"  
"Well, the hot water system," said Hamish. "It's utterly inadequate. Look at the hot water your wife needs to do the dishes. But does she get it — no. That's because the tank isn't big enough to supply both the kitchen sink and the upstairs bathtub. Well, I have solved the problem. I have merely changed around a few pipes so now, in the upstairs bath, the hot water comes out of the cold tap and the cold water comes out of the hot tap."

I was staring at him in confusion. "So what?"  
Hamish sighed. "How can you be so dull?" he asked. "Isn't it obvious that when a person wants a bath he naturally turns on the hot water tap. So what happens? He gets cold water instead. The tap says 'hot,' so he comes to the conclusion that there is no hot water in the house. The result is that your wife gets plenty of it for the dishes."

"Hamish," I said, "your concern for my wife is positively touching."

It was just then that we heard the screams. They came from upstairs and they were absolutely terrifying. We ran for the second floor, while these terrible shrieks echoed through the house, and in what used to be my bedroom we discovered the portly figure of Col. S. Skeffington-Smuts (Ret.). He was dripping wet from head to toe and his flesh was the color of bottled lobster.

"Do something, you gaping idiots!" he shouted at us. "Can't you see I'm being scalded to death?"

Well, I got some anti-burn ointment from the bathroom — where I noticed the tub was filled with water — and Hamish and I gently applied the stuff to the Colonel's livid body. I don't dare repeat any of his language.

Later, when I was again alone with Hamish, the little man said thoughtfully: "You know, that's a funny thing. I forgot that the Colonel never takes anything but a cold water bath. He must have turned on the cold tap, and — well, it's too bad, but I guess your wife will have to wait until the tank heats up again before she can do the dishes."

Sometimes I think it's really safer living in the shed.

## Roads Better at Francois Lake

FRANCOIS LAKE — Roads between here and Burns Lake have been gravelled and culverts are being installed along the route. Travellers report roads in better condition for travel than at any other time.

## Legion Heads



CANADIAN LEGION at its national convention in Montreal elected clergymen to its two top jobs for the first time in Legion history. Dr. C. B. Lumsden (left), 57-year-old professor of Bible studies at Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S., succeeds Group Capt. Alfred Watts of Vancouver as president. The new first vice-president is Dean J. O. Anderson (right) of Winnipeg.

## VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—There's a great argument going on as to whom first gave women the vote in B.C.—Liberals or Conservatives. Each side is taking the credit, in an effort to win votes June 12.

The record shows this—that the Conservative government of Premier Bowser, in May of 1916, passed the act giving women the vote. The act, however, didn't come into force until March of 1917, by which time the Liberals were in power.

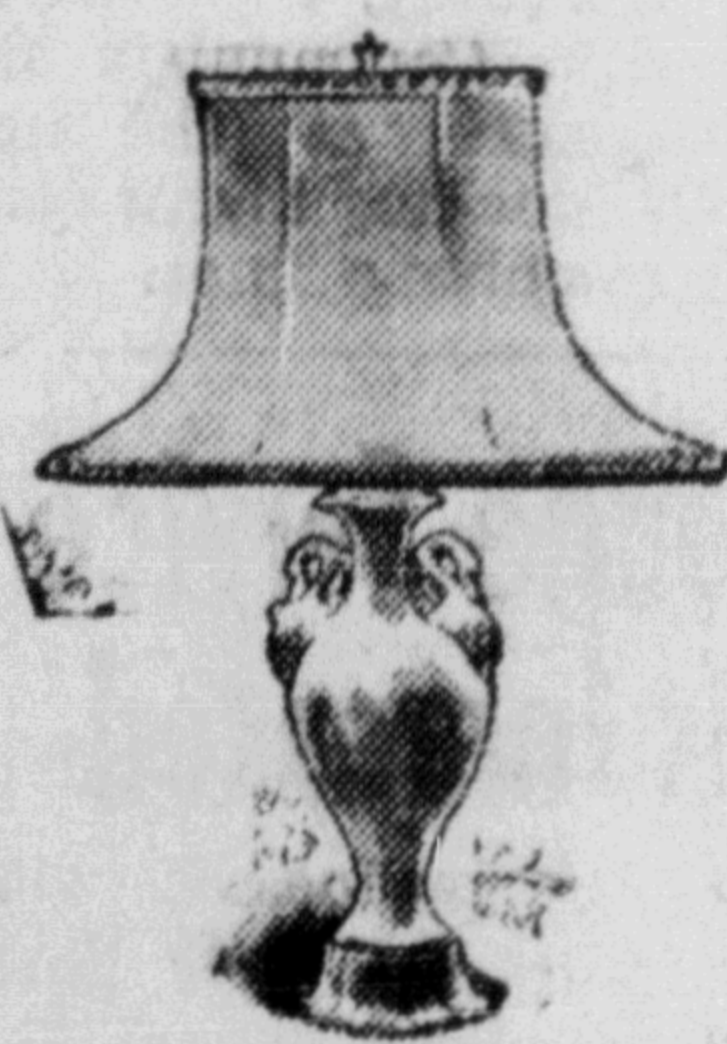
This reviewer cannot but hope that the liquor plebiscite passes. It's not that he wants cocktail lounges, but a "yes" vote would wake up the government to the fact that there is something drastically wrong with the present liquor law, which encourages furtive drinking in alleyways, in the back seats of cars, in hotel bedrooms, and causes people to park bottles under tables at cabarets, and sneak drinks, usually far too many of them.

Besides, what is wrong with cocktail lounges? I have seen many in Washington State and California and I can find little wrong with them. They're small and clean, generally attractive; one doesn't see nearly the drunks one sees in B.C. beer parlors. It seems to me that if I had a teen-age daughter I'd rather she take her first drink, in public, in a cocktail lounge, than take a nip from the open bottle, in the back seat of a car, as my generation was forced to learn to drink.

Back from a tour of the southern interior, I can't figure out who's going to win the election.

I don't think there's going to be a good deal of clarification from so confused a political picture; in other words, I don't see how one party can get enough seats to form a good, safe government. It depends on the new voting system, however; if it works out as the government hopes it will, the final count may turn up a government with majority support in the Legislature.

However, I do not believe the



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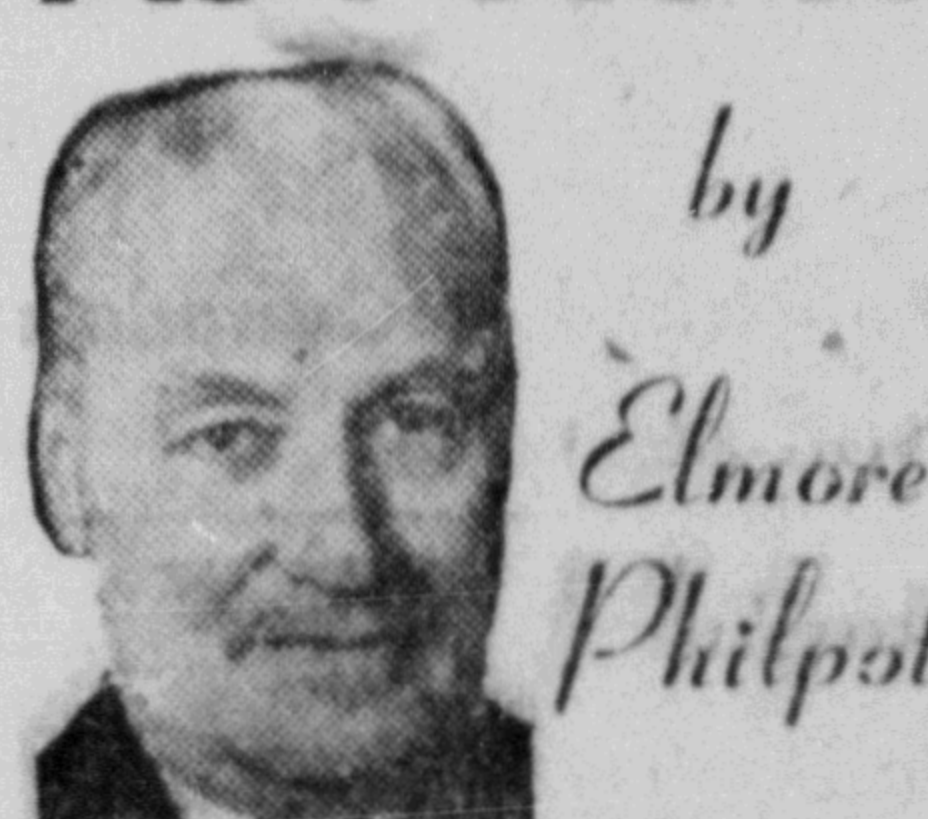
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## As I See It



The War on FDR

THEY have a saying, in parts of the U.S.A., that the South is still fighting "the war."

By "the war" they do not mean anything so trivial as the two world wars of this century, but the American family strife of a century ago.

There is another weird war that goes on, with increasing bitterness, in our own time.

That is the amazing war that U.S. newspapers, politicians, and the whole "upper class" wages against the late and greatest President of them all—FDR—Franklin Roosevelt, the friend of the common man everywhere.

A WITTY writer said the other day that the greatest mistake he had made in his life was not to have joined the Communist party, in his youth. Then he could have turned on his former comrades, as a whole host of others have done, and been fabulously paid for it.

Well, if you probe this fantastic spectacle a bit you find that it has an inner circle or core: The writing which has the highest market value in the U.S.A. today is that particular part of the Red-hunting which tends to smear or discredit the great Roosevelt.

Latterly smart Britishers as well as Americans are cutting themselves great slabs of the well-paying American pie. Rebecca West syndicated a series of newspaper articles, supposedly on the life of Stalin, which arrived at this astonishing conclusion: That Roosevelt had "given away" Europe to Stalin, while Churchill had "looked on" in consternation.

Somewhat the same theme is developed at length in the war history by the Australian, Chester Wilmot.

THE JOKE of all this is that while the great FDR is dead, Winston Churchill is very much alive. He is not only one of the greatest statesmen of modern times, but one of the most prolific writers of our times. In his volumes he is taking the credit for what the critics of Roosevelt

vett are NOW describing as great diplomatic defeats.

The classic example concerns Poland. The "hate FDR" brigade holds up the revision of the boundaries of Poland as one of FDR's world sell-outs to Stalin. Yet in his own book Churchill tells in some detail how with three matches he illustrated his (Churchill's) plan to shift the whole Polish nation west at Germany's expense.

AN AMERICAN newspaper publisher recently roared in an angry voice at a Canadian visitor who dared to say something favorable about the great wartime President of the USA:

"Roosevelt," he sputtered, "That ———, I hope he roasts in hell!"

Why do they hate him so? When I was a boy at school we tried to learn French by reading a witty play, "Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon." It was about a pappa with a beautiful daughter who had two suitors. One—foolish fellow—saved pappapa's life, when pappapa fell in a mountain crevasse. Pappapa never forgave him. The other, wise guy, got the girl by letting pappapa save him!

That, I think, is the real reason why the hate of FDR marches on. They just can't forgive FDR for saving them—especially as the New Deal rope he threw them is still there.

Canada's 32 refineries and 14 blending plants produced \$511,000,000 worth of petroleum products in 1950.

## Poker Playing Pays Plenty

CLEVELAND (AP)—I have been playing poker, bridge, rummy, all the while contributing \$10 a week to the city's kitty. Today, Harry J. secretary of the card and game association, announced that the kitty had \$15,000 sweetening. It was used to finance the purchase of a 25-suite apartment house for two smaller apartment houses.

STREET CARS DATED Trolley buses replaced cars in four more Canadian cities in 1951—at Edmonton, Saskatoon and Hamilton.

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