

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. P. MAJOR, President. H. G. PERRY, Vice-President.

Is Mining Tax Justified?

A MID the loud cries from some quarters calling for a much more onerous tax on the mining and logging industries, it is well to give some thought to the appeal being made by the Mining Association of B.C. on behalf of 18 idle mines in the province.

In studying the situation, we might ask whether these resource tax proposals are justified or whether they are merely taxation for taxation's sake. Will increased taxes bring in more or less revenue from mining and logging?

As the "Western Miner & Oil Review" observes, the mining industry is already one of the biggest taxpayers in B.C. In five years, from 1948 to 1952, mining paid more than \$114,000,000 in federal, provincial, municipal and other taxes. While it is true that most of the tax money went to Ottawa, a good portion of it came back to B.C. through the Dominion-provincial tax rental agreement.

Further examination brings to light a little known but startling condition. Although the mining industry is kept alive by capital investment, the people of B.C. and all of Canada get directly at least 60 per cent of mining profits through taxes, and a lot more indirectly. The fact is that the mining industry in Canada today is owned not by the shareholders, who have only a minority interest, but by every citizen.

B.C. is richly endowed with mineral resources. At least 40 important cities, towns and communities in the province are entirely or in part dependent on mining. At present the industry is hard pressed to maintain itself. Many properties have had to suspend operations. Under these conditions, it is difficult to attract new capital for the exploration and development of potential new mines. Mining, a depletion industry, must attract this capital or the undeveloped ore deposits will remain in the ground to benefit nobody.

Although some politicians in B.C. apparently are not too familiar with the economic law of diminishing return to taxation, they should be familiar with the old saying about "killing the goose that lays the golden egg," which is the same thing.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The heavy winter and spring epidemic of 'flu in the Capital has largely run its course. But now a new fever has taken its place. It is by way of contrast, as exciting as the 'flu visitation was dreary. It's Coronation fever.

For the past week no one has been able to walk up the front walk of Parliament Hill and enter the main Parliamentary building. The way has been blocked by a scaffolding extending the full width of the approach. Within the next fortnight this scaffolding will become the platform on which the local and national dignitaries will stand for the Capital's commemoration of the great event.

So if you want to visit the Parliament Buildings these days you detour around by the east or west blocks. That takes you considerably out of your way. And even then you're not too sure of reaching your destination. You may walk smack into the centre of a rehearsal of some phase of the coming ceremonial. And once again you may discover that the longest way round—perchance all the way around the library wing to one of the rear entrances of the main building proper—is the only way to your objective.

Every day now the Governor-General's carriage is drawn through Ottawa streets by three spans of the most intelligent horses which the stables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police can provide. They make the trip shortly after high noon, just about the time when street and road congestion is at its peak. The idea is to accustom the animals to (a) the indignity of pulling a wheeled vehicle instead of carrying a dashing Red Coat on the exciting mission of getting his man; and (b) to the sudden noises and surprises which street traffic can present in a motor car age.

In the show vehicle an individual rides who is of sufficient dignity to be His Excellency himself. To heighten the illusion he waves graciously to the crowds which pause to stare at the picturesque turn-out. But he isn't His Excellency. He is just a sec-

retary from the Government House staff. His purpose is to enact each day's rehearsal in as much faithful detail as possible, so that the Coronation Day drive itself may be timed with split-second precision, with allowance for crowd greetings and other features of the procession estimated accurately in advance.

Ottawans line the streets of the Capital to witness these and other preliminaries. And as they watch them something of the suspense of the pending high moment of Empire is created. Instead of becoming familiar with repetition, the component fragments of the pageant are creating an atmosphere of expectancy. Something of the importance of the occasion is being sensed from the magnitude of the preparations. The way things are going, when the day itself arrives it will be one of impressive solemnity and intense mass patriotism.

IWA Expels One-Time Commie

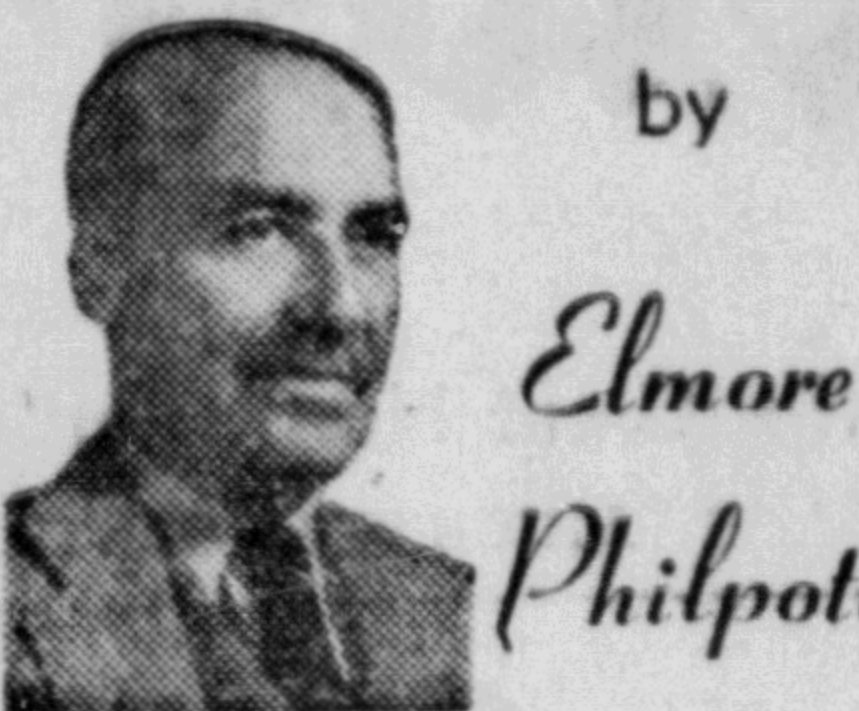
EVERETT, Wash. — (AP) — Western Washington CIO woodworkers have voted to expel a vice-president who has admitted he once was a member of the Communist Party.

Delegates to the District 23, International Woodworkers of America, convention, voting to follow their union constitution to the letter, ordered the ouster of Karly Larson, District 23 vice-president.

Larson one-time international IWA vice-president, is one of seven defendants in the government's Communist-conspiracy trial in Federal Court at Seattle. His courtroom admission he once joined the Communist Party but quit in 1946 "for the same reason I joined" led to Sunday's action by union members here.

Larson, who attended the stormy session, said he will appeal the expulsion to the union's international executive board in Portland. He also may appeal to the union's next international convention, slated to be held in Vancouver next fall.

As I See It



Premier Blames Press

PREMIER BENNETT'S speech at Salmon Arm is one of the most astounding ever made by a public man in Canada.

In answers to written questions by the school teachers of Salmon Arm, he flatly repudiated the "sex and socialism" charges made in the Legislature by Mr. J. A. Reid. Then he attacked the newspapers of B.C. in general, and me in particular, for publicizing those charges.

ACCORDING to the Sacred leader's strange theory it was all right for Mr. Reid to abuse his privilege as a member of the Legislature by crude charges Mr. Bennett now candidly and commendably admits had no basis in fact. But the papers should not have given prominence to those charges—which incidentally have besmirched the good name of B.C. from coast to coast in North America.

"The whole issue had been blown up by the newspapers and sensational writings to cloud the issue," said Mr. Bennett.

LEAVING aside for the moment the strange gap in the Premier's logic—appealing for reelection of the man just repudiated—let us examine the implied threat to the press.

This is not the first time that the Social Credit party has tried to intimidate or gag the press. In 1937 the late Premier Aberhart was forced to yield to clamor within his own party to "do something." He imported two "experts" from England to tell Alberta what to do. One of the first laws passed by the Social Credit Legislature at the request of these experts was the famous "BILL NINE" of 1937.

This astounding newspaper gag law was as bad as anything ever set up in Hitler's Germany or Stalin's Russia. Section 3 (1) gave the chairman of the Social Credit Board power to order "correction or amplification of any statement relating to any policy or activity of the government of the province."

Section 4 compelled newspaper proprietors, editors, publishers to reveal to the Social Credit chairman, on order, "every source from which any information emanated... and the names, addresses and occupations of all persons by whom such information was furnished to the newspaper, and the name and address of the writer of any editorial, article, or news item." Section 5 made it impossible for anybody to take legal action for libel or slander in connection with any statement published under Section 3, above, on order of the Social Credit government.

Section 6 gave power to the government to close down any newspaper which broke the above Sacred rules. It also gave the government power to prohibit the publication of anything it did not want printed.

THANK GOD we had in Canada a Governor-General who knew the meaning of British freedom and democracy. We had a Liberal government at Ottawa and Conservatives and CCF in opposition who were as much opposed to the Social Credit press gag law as were the Liberals.

Thank God the Sacred press gag law was vetoed by the Governor-General-in-Council on October 5, 1937.

MR. BENNETT is quite right when he says "Elmore Philpott and others do not hesitate to attack us."

I think we have seen enough of Social Credit in one year in B.C. to see where it is heading—and why an ungagged press cramps its style.

Veteran British Engineer Retires

LONDON — Charles Burgess retired after a long career as engineer of the famous British railway express, the Flying Scotsman.

He numbered five generations of royalty among his passengers. He said it was unbelievable that British locomotive engineers were still being paid such wages as £7, 10s weekly plus mileage.

A Communist country is a place where they name a street after you one day and chase you down it the next.



RUSSELL B. CURRY of Ottawa has been appointed chairman of the 18-member Social Commission of the United Nations. A native of Port Maitland, N.S., Mr. Curry is national director of family allowances with the welfare department. Left to right: Mr. Curry; Kaare Salvesen of Norway, official reporter, and Mrs. Ashadevi Aryanayakam of India, vice-chairman.

Parliament Hill

By GEORGE M. MURRAY, M.P., Cariboo

OTTAWA.—One of the results of our huge defence expenditure is the creation of certain radar stations across the land.

This phase of defence work has been kept very much on the secret list. In the Cariboo constituency we have such stations as that at Baldy Hughes Mountain and at Chilanko in the Chilcoot country.

Without revealing any military secrets, I can say that this radar chain forms the eyes and ears of the defence forces of this continent.

These stations keep watch day and night across the broad frontiers of Canada. It has been said that if somebody at Whitehorse, Y.T., bounced a tennis ball into the air, the ball could be detected by radar.

That, of course, is an exaggeration, but if an aircraft over James Bay—that is, a foreign and unidentified aircraft—came over the horizon, one of our radar stations would instantly get track of the plane and would keep that plane in sight so long as it remained within our territory.

From the station the news would be flashed to the RCAF and in a matter of minutes a fighter craft would arise from various Canadian airfields and would attack the invader.

TWO of the most important installations of this kind are those near Prince George and Williams Lake. They cost millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money, but will perform a service which cannot be measured in dollars.

Moreover, these stations, which are essential in the defence of Canada and the United States, can be of vast service to the country should the war clouds disappear and peace be established on earth. Through the magic eyes of radar it will be possible to check upon all aircraft of a civilian character. Lost planes can quickly be identified, search and rescue crews can be directed by radar. Lives may be saved by warning planes of certain weather conditions and by constantly keeping the movement of Canadian aircraft checked.

In regard to reports on weather, radar will in the future play a very important part. It has already been proved capable of detecting and photographing those funnel-shaped hellicats of the skies known as tornadoes. In the United States, radar was able to follow the formation of the storm clouds and to warn people hours ahead of an approaching cyclone.

Here in Canada radar can be of assistance in saving our forests. It will not be far distant when it will be perfected to a point where the outbreak of a forest fire can be detected by radar installation. This is not a fact at the moment and research is being carried on with the hope of placing this great invention at the service of fire prevention in the forest areas of the continent.

Radar is already a valuable aid in the fishing industry. It is simplifying the work of search

C.C.F. PUBLIC MEETING. Hear... ARTHUR TURNER and GEORGE HILLS. AT LEGION AUDITORIUM. Thursday, May 21 - 8:00 p.m.

Pulp, Paper Association Offers Award To Writer of Best Story on Industry

Beginning this year, the pulp and paper industry in British Columbia will provide an annual award of \$500 cash for newsmen or newswomen employed by daily newspapers in B.C.

The award will be made to the writer of the best story covering any phase, or development of the pulp and paper industry, or any project sponsored by the industry, it was announced today by Leander Manley, secretary manager of the Western Division, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association.

Because of the growing importance of the pulp and paper industry to the economy of B.C., the operators believe it is timely



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In 5 years, B.C. Mines paid \$114,000,000 IN TAXES (1948-1952)

TAXATION

100,000 people in British Columbia depend on MINING... MINERS' WAGES help to pay YOUR WAGES!

MORE TAXES CAN MAKE MORE IDLE MINES

Published by THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. On behalf of 18 Idle Mines in British Columbia