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Wheels of Progress

A FEW remarks on B.C. by Stewart Holbrook in his new book, "Far Corner (A Personal View of the Pacific Northwest)", have the effect of making us pause a moment and drawing a deep breath. Mr. Holbrook, a former resident of this province now living in Oregon, writes:

"The British Columbia I used to know was as delightful a country as man ever lived in. It had, and still has, gorgeous scenery. Life was not too hard. The people lived calmly. The pace everywhere, town or country, was leisurely. The people had their own ways and customs and heroes and symbols. They held fast to these. I do not think this is true any longer. People and province have been caught in the heady current called Progress. Anything new is wonderful. Anything old is to be deplored.

"The province is now beginning to know Progress in full measure. Backed by natural resources as great as any in North America, and possibly greater, I can see nothing to prevent British Columbia from becoming the hive of population and of industry and commerce that a majority of its citizens seem to want. I wish them well, and remain happy in my memories of a British Columbia that wore its own clothes, including its own collar; and when, in all its immensity, there were only half a million people—only a few more than are now living in Greater Vancouver alone."

It cannot be that Mr. Holbrook wishes us to remain in the backwash simply to retain our primitive and unpopulated charm. But he clearly does believe that we have sacrificed individuality in our rush to get ahead.

It is a point worth considering. Unless we keep our identity, first as Canadians and second as British Columbians, this province will become simply an industrial backyard of the U.S.A.

The idea, we suggest, is to keep on the move—there is character in that alone—but to remember we are not chasing anyone or trying to beat anyone. As far as reasonably possible, we must move in our own direction, at our own pace and on our own terms.

Progress is not a form of competition. It is merely a means of making a good thing a little better.

ray ...

Reflects and Reminisces

Canada and Canada alone has the right to say where her units overseas shall go. Ottawa had not been consulted, when her paratroop company found itself on the way to Kojima Island, eastern trouble source. Hence, in a stiff message to Washington, Canada protests.

The principle of the thing is similar to what it was when General Pershing's army arrived in France in 1914. Then, the leaders in Europe undertook to mingle the American forces with the soldiers of Britain and France. Pershing went up in the air. The Yanks stayed in France, but as the United States Army. And everyone was aware of it.

Many bank accounts, comments an Ottawa official, are forgotten. But many more are sadly remembered.

During a pause at Mr. Anscomb's two-hour meeting Monday, some one made an inquiry that had nothing in particular to do with various subjects under review. "What's daylight saving amount to?" came a query. This

brought a laugh, as intended. The incident reminds one of earlier days when, for anyone to call out "How about Cow Bay?" would launch a ripple of chuckles. But not today. This is the wrong generation.

An 18-year-old Canadian bride, Mrs. MacMahon, married nine months ago, won a fortune at the Epsom race Wednesday. There are occasions when nothing appears missing.

Chick-Check Day

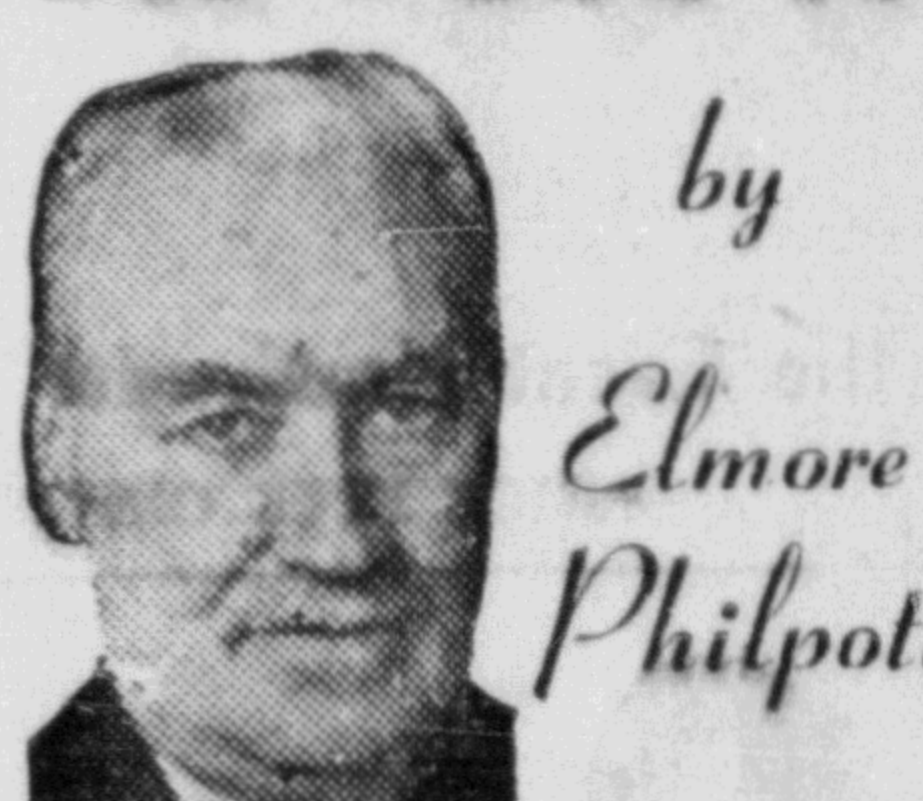
Today marks an anniversary of an ancient old country custom, also known as "Oak Apple Day," and originates with a story about Charles Stuart.

Stuart, some three hundred years ago, hid in an oak tree after the Battle of Worcester, from the fury of the Roundheads.

To remember the event, inhabitants of a village by virtue of an ancient custom and right, went early in the day to the woods to gather as much firewood as they could carry away.

Young men and women bedecked themselves with newly-sprung oak leaves and so garlanded return to dance around the Maypole until end of day. Meanwhile, the oldesters headed for the local tavern for ale and home-cooking—with no other craving than that such things and such peace might last forever. —"Moonraker."

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott
B.C. Broadminded
HERE is one difference between B.C. and Ontario, which makes me feel proud of west coast broadmindedness:

Last year in the Ontario election the hospital insurance system of Saskatchewan became a matter of sharp controversy. The CCF used a recorded talk by Premier Tommy Douglas of Saskatchewan to answer some of the Ontario electioneering statements. That action was sharply criticized by the Toronto Globe and Mail, which is alleged by Premier Douglas to have refused publication of a letter from him answering its own editorial rebuke on him.

Here in B.C., as I return from Ottawa, I find that the most obvious election development is a veritable invasion from across the Rockies. The whole Alberta Social Credit party is moving in to capture B.C. A small sized army of MPs from Alberta is already here. Premier Manning is coming too.

It is to the credit of B.C. that not one important paper and not one important candidate or party leader has raised the question of the propriety of such an invasion. Here on the coast the general attitude is:

Let them all come, the more the merrier. Let's hear what they have to say.

I AM NOT at all sure of the political wisdom of the Social Credit party in depending so overwhelmingly on outside talent. The selection of an Alberta federal MP as B.C. campaign leader seemed to me to be an obvious admission that there was nobody in B.C. big enough for the job.

The ordinary voter in B.C. is therefore bound to ask himself: If there is nobody in the B.C. Social Credit party big enough to handle the mere campaign, then how many people are there in the party who are fit to sit in the Legislature, or the cabinet?

ALBERTA surely does have one thing to teach B.C. and that is that we never should have been such nitwits as to adopt the silly system called the Transferrable Vote.

Everybody who knows the score in B.C. politics today knows perfectly well that the real danger is that no party will get a working majority. Nobody yet knows how many, if any, seats the Social Credit party will win in B.C. But everybody knows they will take a few hundred votes in every riding they run

in; and nobody yet knows which parties will suffer most from this.

OF COURSE the Social Credit party cannot be blamed for the Transferrable Vote system. It was in effect in Alberta before Social Credit was born. But Alberta's experience plainly shows that it simply means extra complication and nuisance, for no real effect. In other words the same candidates who finally won out in Alberta under the Transferrable Vote system are substantially the same as would have won out under the good old British straight X system.

B.C. TOOK another even more backward step in this election. Correct me if I am wrong, you historical Sherlock Holmes but the B.C. ballots which will use in this election will name the political parties to which the various candidates belong. I do not believe this has ever been done before in any election in any part of the British Commonwealth. The British unwritten constitution does not recognize political parties—which are, in fact, a growth that the builders of the British system of democracy never foresaw.

The Americans, Germans, French and Russians have long recognized parties. But my impression is that no other British unit has done so.

THE BRITISH system of absentee voting seems better than the one we will use in B.C. In Britain the absentee voters get their ballots long before the election. They must be mailed in time to be counted, with the rest immediately after the election. Here we must wait for 21 days. Ye gods.

To Shoot or Not, That Is Question Playwright Poses

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON—If a burglar disturbs your beauty sleep, what should you do about it? Get out the old shooting iron or take it lying down?

Sir Alan Herbert, playwright, wit and former parliamentarian, whose logical mind often rebels at the little quirks in British law, poses the question. His own answer, as outlined in an article in the Sunday Times, is that a private citizen who catches a burglar red-handed has not only the right, but a duty, to arrest him. If the burglar, "having notice thereof, resists or flies," the householder, says Sir Alan, should take up the nearest weapon, smite the intruder mightily and if the intruder dies it is justifiable homicide.

Three days after these forthright words were published, a London court took a different view. David Starley, 32, of Northwood, Middlesex, was obliged to pay costs of 20 guineas for taking a pot shot at a man who entered by a window and started flashing a light around Starley's bedroom.

Starley shouted at the intruder, then pulled the trigger. He was convicted of unlawfully wounding, and the prosecutor said:

"It is the duty, as I understand it, of any citizen who knows that a felony has been committed to apprehend the felon, but that citizen is not entitled to take

the extreme step of shooting unless there is no other means of apprehension. It seems curious that Starley made no attempt to follow the man."

NO MERCY

The question of to shoot or not to shoot promptly set off a lively correspondence, with most readers in favor of showing no mercy at all. Viscount Hailsham, better known as Quintin Hogg when he was a Conservative member of the House of Commons, "challenged the idea that any householder should feel bound to 'chase his quarry through the darkness clad in pyjamas and barefooted.'"

From Chipping Sodbury in Gloucestershire, 82-year-old Bertram Horne wrote to say he had two friends murdered in their beds by burglars, had no intention of suffering a similar fate and considered it fair warning that a sign in his basement window reads:

"Warning: burglars will be shot on sight."

Horne said he has shot every species of vermin and hopes to add a burglar to the list. His bloodthirsty words appeared below this advice from a reader in

Oxford, attributed to a learned judge: "Take a double-barreled gun, carefully load both barrels, and then, without attracting burglar's attention, shoot at his heart and dead."

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Mrs. Byron Johnson

Saturday, May 31

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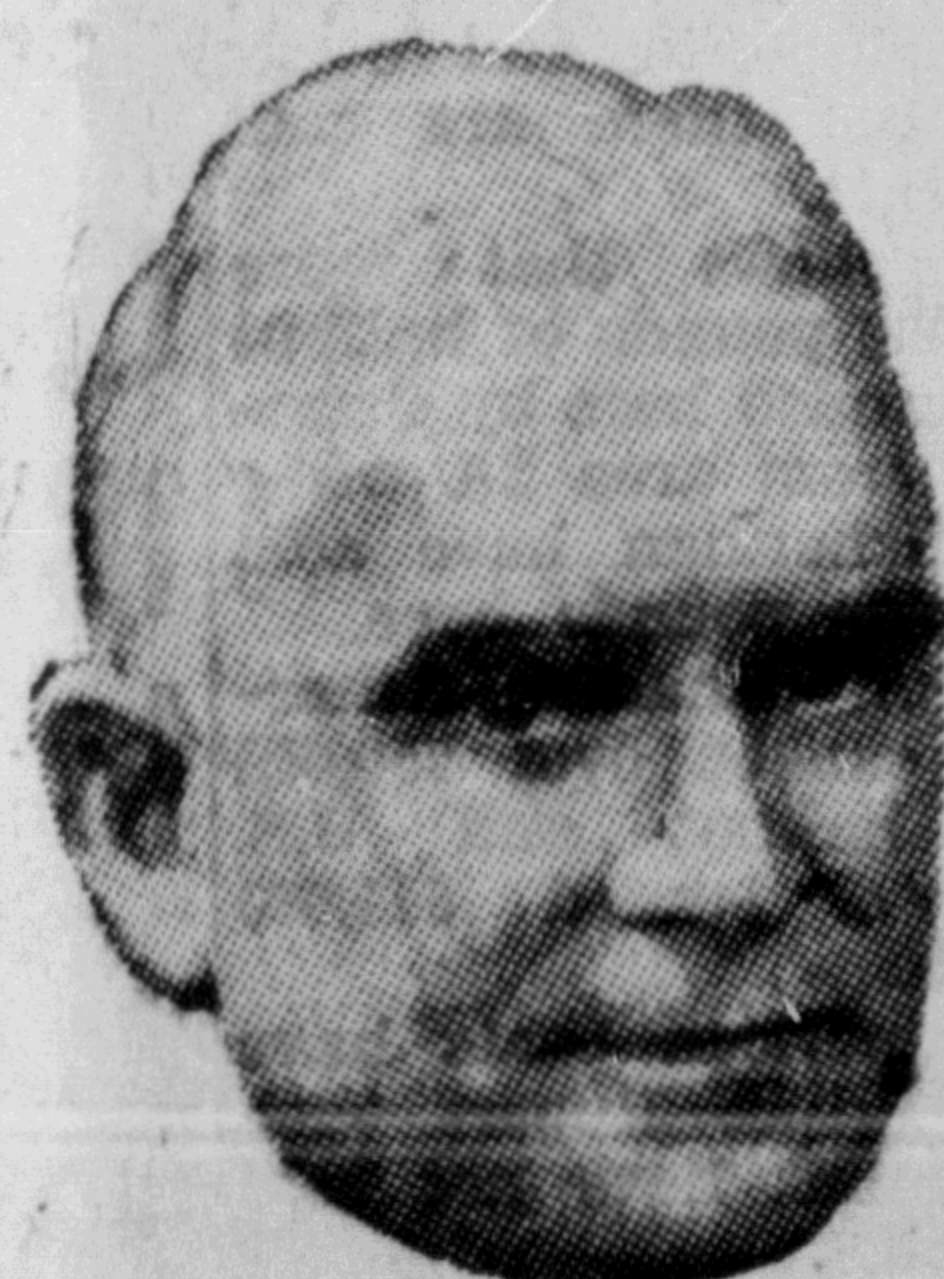
3 to 5 p.m.

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Inserted by the B.C. Liberal Association