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'They Took Their Chance'

AT A TIME when new personalities are appearing on the local political scene retrospect may seem tedious, but there are two men in Prince Rupert who merit this attention.

They are Art Murray and Jack McRae, both candidates in the last election who, for individual reasons, will not be on the ticket this year. Both are active and respected members of our community who had the courage to stick their heads into the angry maw of politics.

We do not forget, of course, that Tom Christie and George Hills share in this credit. Since the plans of their respective parties are not officially known, however, it would be presumptuous in their case to speak in terms of either retrospect or prospect. Apart from that, all reference applies equally to them.

If we are to continue to have a democracy, a few people in each district have to stand up for public examination every time an election comes around. It is a performance which calls for much personal fortitude. Since a candidate's main task is not to convince established friends but to convert doubtful ones, he is exposed to ridicule, scorn, insult and abuse. For the uneasy privilege of being put in this position, he must pay heavily in whatever money and energy he may have.

Despite this strange arrangement, the time is yet to come when the Canadian public is denied a chance to vote for candidates who have better than average qualifications to speak for their constituents. While there are the opportunists, the fanatics and the dupes running for office in any election, the overall standard is high because the competitive interests of the party system make it impossible to be otherwise.

As Mr. Murray and Mr. McRae retire from the contest it is worth remembering that, win or lose, they took their chance at the game in recognition of the democratic principle that every citizen has a right, not only to vote, but to vote for someone of his or her choice. It was a laudable step in two careers already distinguished for public service. While everyone appreciates this, it is mentioned here before the heat of the new campaign causes us to forget the contributions of those who have gone before.

It is gratifying to observe that their places have been taken by two candidates who stand high in the popular esteem of this district. This continued willingness of good men to step forward is the greatest of all our natural resources. As long as it remains, the people cannot lose.

Newsman Who Visited Russia Stick By Stories on What They Saw There

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven newspaper and radio executives came back from Moscow and faced new gibes about their reports of what they saw there. But the editors, appearing on an ABC television program for questioning by a group of reporters, stuck together throughout the sharp cross-examination.

They insisted that they felt they had to tell and write exactly what they saw there—whether their tour of Moscow was carefully arranged by the Soviet government or not. They said they would continue writing and telling about it, being careful to evaluate what they had seen in relation to other information at hand.

At one point, the leader of the expedition, James L. Wick of the Wick newspapers in Ohio, North Carolina and Louisiana, was asked by a reporter facetiously whether they asked permission to visit any concentration camps.

Wick replied in serious tones that he had discussed the question during a party at the hall of journalists, and had been told there was no concentration camps—that Russia like the United States, had prisons for criminals.

He said he then mentioned maps appearing in U.S. publications, showing the sites of concentration camps, and was told this was anti-Soviet propaganda.

Wick said he then asked whether the Americans would be permitted to inspect one of the sites shown on such maps, and

he said the reply was: "Of course."

At one point, asked if he thought they got a "true picture" of Russia, Wick replied that everyone should keep in mind that they spent only seven days and saw only a small part of Russia.

He said the group could only "tell the truth to the extent of what we saw."

Dispatches some sent back about visits to Moscow factories, subways and the university brought a comment from the New York Daily News that Russia is trying "the same old Soviet sucker game on gullible westerners."

The New York Post has been referring to the group as "The Rover Boys in Moscow," and Time magazine in its current issue said it appeared "from their fatuous findings, all of the travelling editors had fallen on their faces."

John H. Biddle, of the Huntington, Pa., Daily News, said the news magazine's "caustic criticism" is unfair and without foundation, because the magazine has no way of knowing conditions in Moscow, or knowing what the touring editors saw there.

Beautiful
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As I See It

by
Elmore Philpott

WVA, Hogs, Butter

GEORGE Cruickshank, MP for Fraser Valley, is a doughty fighter. He is surely on sound ground when he urges the government to lift that lid on permitted earnings by WVA men.

The WVA grants are \$50 for single people and \$90 for married couples. You may earn up to \$50 per month extra on what is called casual employment.

But for every day you work at "intermittent employment" you get docked \$3.60 per day! Also, you cannot take, say, a full-time night watchman's job because you would be docked more than you would earn.

IT IS unfair to blame the WVA officials for the way they administer this act. They do the best they can under the law.

But the law itself should be changed preferably to abolish the double means test altogether; or failing that—at least to make it permissible for a man getting \$50 WVA to earn an extra \$50 for any source in any way, or for a couple to earn an extra \$100.

Mr. Cruickshank has another good point "The amount of these allowances has not kept pace with advancing living costs."

But that applies to all pensions, and allowances. Maybe one remedy is to bring down living costs.

TOM LEACH the CBC farm commentator for B.C. is one of the hardest headed chaps I ever knew. He has a plan to stop the pork surplus from piling up. He shows that when our government was anxious to boost bacon production it set up a system of cash premium payments to farmers who would produce fat hogs. Tom says "The average farm jumped production from 7.6 pigs per farm to 15.5."

He suggests that hogs should be slaughtered at 165 pounds—and that if the \$2 premium is to be continued it should be fixed at that weight and not 210, as now.

He gives a convincing detail to prove that this is the most economic hog to produce for the only markets we have in sight.

NO BRIGHT woman (or man) has yet come forward with any kind of answer to the question I recently asked here:

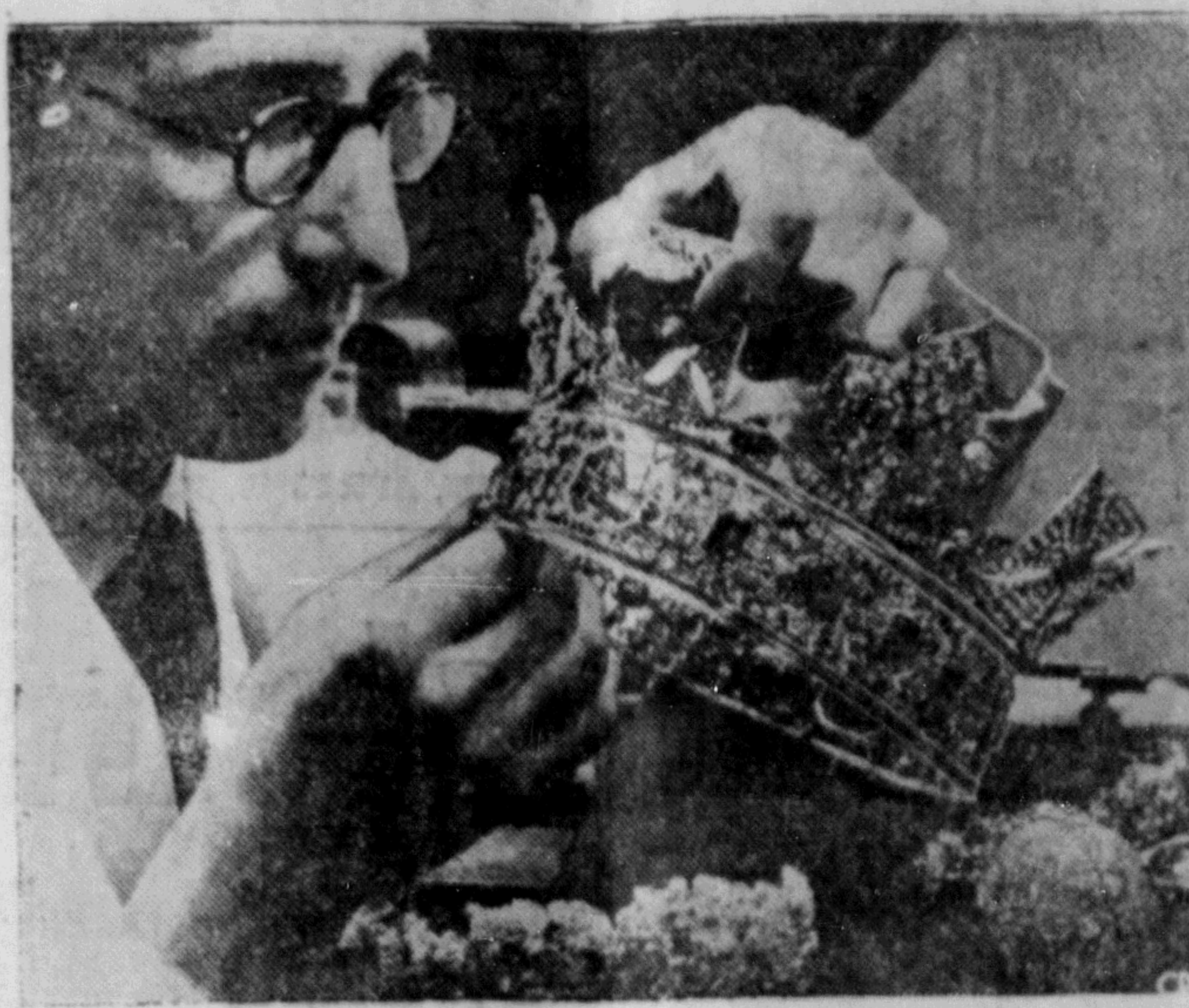
What is a practical way of getting rid of the food surpluses, without ruining the livelihood of the people who produce the food?

For instance, Mrs. Ordinary Housewife—how would YOU go about getting rid of the 30 million pounds of surplus butter that our government bought with our money to keep the floor price to farmers above 58 cents?

Would you sell it through the stores for whatever price it would bring? And suppose you did that—say selling the butter surplus at 50, 40, 30 or even 10 cents a pound? Would that not knock the bottom clean out of the butter market—and put dairy farmers out of business? Or what do you think?

The same principle applies to 76 million pounds of canned pork our government owns.

OSLO, Norway (CP)—The Paleontological Museum here has opened a special exhibit to show the first prehistoric reptile ever found in Norway. The ichthyosaurus unearthed last summer in north Norway is the fossil of an animal estimated to be 120,000,000 years old.



WORKMEN ARE REMODELLING the Imperial State Crown which Queen Elizabeth will wear after her Coronation at Westminster Abbey and on all future state occasions. An expert diamond cutter, H. G. Goodship, fits the famous Black Prince's ruby into one of the four crosses pattee above the circlet of the crown. On the bench are sections of the arches and the diamond mount which surmounts the arch.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Whatever else "Art" Laing may have been in his useful four-year career as a Vancouver MP, he now rates as Parliament Hill's No. 1 man of mystery as he bows off the federal stage to lead the Liberal party in British Columbia.

The mystery cloak will only be stripped off him on June 9 next. On that date he will disclose whether or not he is really the answer to the quest of the old-line parties for someone able to serve as an effective roadblock in the pathway of the crusading Social Credit movement.

Right now that's about the most important assignment that anyone in these parts could receive. For Social Credit here has just said that it will field 160 candidates in the coming federal contest. In the uncertain state of public opinion, the prestige of a really resounding win in British Columbia on June 9 would be about all these characters would need to be highly dangerous contenders on federal polling day.

The B.C. Liberals are hardly in a position to appreciate their good fortune in being able to secure Laing's help in their present plight. Their good luck doesn't consist alone in the solid abilities and qualities for leadership that the Vancouver MP will bring to them. It lies equally in the fact that he was available at all.

Actually, Laing's availability was a matter of sheerest good luck. For ever since his advent in Ottawa, he has been recognized as of cabinet calibre. If

political considerations hadn't dictated "Jimmie" Sinclair's preference, and if a lawyer hadn't been badly wanted when Ralph Campney was named, he would have been elevated before either.

At that, it is believed in many quarters that if Laing had been more assiduous in cultivating the personnel of the Liberal high command, he would still have won preferment. Fortunately for the B.C. Liberals, Laing has never gone out of his way to sell himself to higher-ups in the party, but has been content to win the confidence of the rank-and-file.

By no stretch of the imagination can the B.C. Liberal leadership be regarded as even an approach to a sincere understanding of conditions of west coast politics. Laing's readiness to accept it and retire from a field where his ultimate high success was as certain as anything can be is characteristic of his character.

Where there's a job to be done, difficulties don't stop him. His mind is quick and soundly independent in its grasp of public questions. His solid background as a trained agriculturist—he's a degree farmer—keeps him close to the fundamental interests of the common people, whose language he talks intelligently.

Federal political circles, regardless of party lines, believe the B.C. Liberals made a 10-strike when they drafted him. He'll do the best job that can be done under the circumstances.

PUBLIC MEETING

SUNDAY, 8:30 P.M. — LEGION AUDITORIUM

Hear George Hills, M.L.A. Report on Recent Session of B.C. Legislature

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The Whisky that has Grown Mellow with Age

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

Far more people are being killed in traffic in Vancouver than are done away with by all the murderers, bandits and strongarm men. Today, the situation is worse than ever. In the first months of last year there were two fatal accidents. This year there have been eleven. What are we going to do, inquires the Vancouver Province. There seems to be only one thing left. That is, scare the living daylight out of drivers who don't take their responsibilities seriously. We should practically put reckless driving on a par with murder, which it is.

CAN SPARE THE TIME

British Columbia winners in the latest Irish sweep are said to be still awaiting their money. It's about two weeks now, since each received the shock. Sometimes it's been three months. Well, if one has to put up with a little delay, we can't think of anything more pleasant to wait for.

Comrade Malenkov lost no time smiling in the general direction of the United Nations, following the passing of his predecessor. It would appear happier times are on the way, if Russia can be of any aid. Nevertheless, why any further use for land mines and barbed wire fences along the Iron Curtain regions?

THE LETTERBOX

SOUVENIR LETTERS

The Editor,
The Daily News—

We have arranged to mail souvenir letters from London postmarked Coronation Day, June 2, 1953, bearing at airmail rate, stamps of the new Coronation commemorative issue, with a further selection of unused stamps of the same issue in the envelope.

We are also forwarding by surface mail on the day of issue one copy each of the British magazines Picture Post and Illustrated. These magazines will be fully descriptive of the Coronation pageant and will contain many color plates.

Readers wishing to accept this offer should write immediately by airmail to Bellman Management & Investments Ltd., at 45 Park Lane, London, W. 1, giving their name and address and enclosing \$1 in currency to cover costs and postage.

KENNETH BELLMAN.

It is not improbable that the Haugue Peace Conference will be the crowning achievement of the twentieth century, remarked a student of the times, a generation ago. We've had a couple of first class wars since then, have hundreds of the largest and best cemeteries ever heard of, and new armament by the millions of tons. More of the half of the century has gone, but after all there is no time to waste.

SHOPPING FATE

The average South African white man is afraid of the Negro, mainly because he is outnumbered five to one. He has no wish to abolish the color bar but he is willing to give the colored peoples education and opportunity. The future of South Africa lies with her people. Their decision in this year's election will shape the fate of the nation. So declares Gerard Murphy.

There is a much better cure for influenza than whisky, states a doctor. Only no one wants it.

When the flood was over and Noah had freed all the animals, he returned to the ark to make sure all had left. He found two snakes, in tears. They told him of their sorrow. "You told us to go forth and multiply, but we are adders."

UP TO THE MINUTE

There are 22 Niponese newspapermen travelling with Prince Akihito to the Coronation, and with them a good sized party of fellow countrymen, each with his extra special camera. From



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"On Wednesday night at Kemano the volume of business never has for an instant. My camera has just caught the most beautiful of the line-up in the picture."

Extract from a letter written by our Manager at Kemano.

Pay Night at Kemano

Since December 1951, The Royal Bank of Canada has provided banking service to construction crews working on the gigantic power and aluminum project now taking shape on B.C.'s rugged mountain coast. Branches and sub-branches are operating at Kemano, Tahtsa Lake, Nechako River damsite, Kildala, Skins Lake and other strategic points in this great undertaking.

Pioneering in remote areas is nothing new to the Royal Bank. It is a strong tradition. For example, we maintain offices at Chetwynd on Hudson's Bay, Mayo in the Yukon, Port Radium on the fringe of the Arctic, "farthest-north" bank in Canada. Wherever the need arises, The Royal Bank of Canada heads north with the men who are establishing Canada's new frontiers.

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