

Prince Rupert Daily News

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Forgotten Spirit

BEFORE it is too late, the Liberal party must demonstrate to this section of the country that it retains the quality of leadership in domestic enterprise which has established it as the greatest force in Canadian politics.

In many respects there is a parallel between northern B.C. today and western Canada 50 years ago. At that time the prairie provinces were the land of promise, and farming settlements were appearing almost overnight in the same manner that mining and industrial projects now are causing a sudden opening up of the north.

The Laurier government was equal to the problems of expansion which were so abruptly created. In a series of swift moves it brought the two new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta into the Dominion, made provisions to promote further western migration and undertook a vigorous railway building program—including construction of a transcontinental line to Prince Rupert.

Nothing is gained by trying to resurrect Laurier, but where is the bold Liberal spirit of his age? Is it down by the drydock? Is it walking the tracks of our northern line? Is it watching Vancouver-based pilots bring ships into Rupert? Is it hovering about looking for an airport near the harbor it once esteemed so highly? If so—and these are only a few of the more unpleasant experiences it might have—it must long to return to its cold and forgotten grave.

Difficult as it is to tolerate locally, the apparent indifference to northern and central B.C. is not by itself a condemnation of all that the Liberal government stands for. Over a much broader field the government's achievements are many and impressive. If we are to show any consistency in our political preference, the large national issues must be judged first.

But our experience here at home contains a signal of warning that bears watching. If it becomes obvious from this that the party is turning from its obligation to build a country that is strong in every part; if, instead, it is concerned only with gaining support where strength already exists, then its friends out here must seriously examine their choice.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

The new subway in Toronto is reported to be a heart-warming sight. Yet climbing up stairs is a heart-raising experience.

HOLDING UP WELL

The Alaska salmon industry is running at half capacity this year. Last season the salmon pack was worth only fifty million compared with recent totals above the ninety million figure. The fact that the salmon industry of British Columbia outlawed fish traps many years ago and have been enforcing strict conservation measures, suggested similar tactics to the United States since Canada's west coast salmon is holding up well.

Arrow Hunters

A somewhat odd but nevertheless true situation these chill, damp days. It's hard enough to look prosperous when you hold a good job but difficult indeed to locate a cushy post if you don't seem that way.

NOT WORRYING

A passenger in a bus carrying boys to a school in England asked a lad he had made friends with this question: "What do you intend to do when you grow up?" "Sir," replied the young fellow, "I need not worry about that, for by that time there will be nowhere to grow up." Anyway he'd lost no time settling the H-bomb worry.

I'd like to get hold of the bird who started this "do it yourself" nonsense observes the Wairton Echo. Everywhere you look you read advertising telling you—yourself—do it. The implication is that any fool can put on a roof, build a house, lay linoleum or build a recreation room in the

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TEN YEARS after it was reduced to a pile of rubble (top) by Allied bombers, the world-famous Abbey of Montecassino is rising from its ruins. The lower photo shows the Abbey, from the same spot, as it appeared to visiting Italian school-children recently, following its partial restoration.

As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Jobs Go Begging

HERE WE ARE back at Ottawa, after the short Easter break.

The MPs reassemble in a more optimistic mood than that in which they departed a week or so ago.

The figures for unemployment have taken a sharp downward dip. Moreover, it is well known that Canadian conditions tend to follow those in the U.S.A. All the American figures suggest a strong new wave of prosperity, at least for this summer.

From the look of things, at the moment, it appears that the optimists have been right again, and the pessimists have been wrong. However, it will take another few months to prove whether this is just a seasonal upswing, or something more solid.

* * *

IN SPITE of the fact that Canada has something over three hundred thousand unemployed, it was recently necessary for this country to enlist in Britain a whole shipload of "tradesmen" for our Canadian army.

At the very moment when we had a vast army of temporarily unemployed it was impossible to find enough young men, with the proper training, to take the technical jobs in the armed services. Perhaps the higher rates of pay were attractive enough to fill up the ranks from Britain. But certainly it is a strange condition where we have to enlist even a minority of technical specialists from the citizens of another country.

Over the Easter recess teachers' conventions in various parts of Ontario grappled with their paramount problems—the acute shortage of trained teachers. Taking the combined public and secondary schools, Ontario now has a prospective shortage of about two thousand teachers. The Ontario government is taking the drastic step of importing no less than five hundred trained school teachers from Britain. One might well ask what is wrong in our own country, when we cannot supply enough tradesmen for our army, and we cannot even staff our own schools with teachers trained in Canada?

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OTTAWA DIARY BY NORMAN M. MACLEOD

Conservative M.P.'s returned to Parliament Hill from the Easter recess in the most optimistic mood that they have achieved since dynamic George Hees captured the National Presidency of the party from the old guard at the March annual meeting.

The reason for their elation was patent to observers, even if it wasn't explicitly stated by the PC's themselves. It was the announcement during the recess of the resignation of W. H. Kidd as national secretary of the party—a post closely akin to that of general manager of the Bracken House party headquarters.

The PC's took the Kidd resignation as a portent that the shake-up in the Bracken House organization for which they had been waiting so vainly and for so long at last is on the drafting board of the party high command. They further regarded it as an evidence of the new George Hees influence for positive action. Rightly or wrongly, the Conservative M.P.'s are convinced that if Hees hadn't captured the national presidency, there would have been no rejuvenation of Bracken House.

About all that the rank-and-file Tory M.P.'s have against Bracken House is its dreary record of failure. But that's a wholly sufficient grievance. To politicians who are realists—actually the terms are synonymous—there is no substitute pay-off for success. Even the most convincing alibis aren't acceptable. And the alibis of Bracken House always have been particularly unconvincing.

The main trouble with Bracken House has been its failure to be representative of the best political brains of the Conservative Party. As a result, it has found itself too often at cross purposes with the party's most

dynamic elements. And when failure has come it has always had the answer ready that the party was sabotaged from within. Not unnaturally veteran PC's have resented bitterly the attempt of the Bracken House amateurs to saddle them with responsibility for the party's non-success, particularly when they had no part in making the policies which brought disaster.

Except as a Bracken House symbol the departure of Kidd from the PC scene is of no real consequence. The post of National Secretary could be one of key importance, but during Kidd's regime it wasn't. Actually, the disappointed no one, because no one ever expected miracles from him. He was an unknown figure to Big League federal politics when Leader George Drew brought him from Vancouver. By the time of his retirement the political abilities for which the PC Leader presumably had picked him still were unknown.

But the interest is going to be keen in his successor. For if he is going to measure up to the expectations of the rank-and-file of the Tory caucus he is going to have to be a top-flight operator. The Parliamentary group won't settle for anything less than a real team-mate for the colorful Hees in the work of party organization.

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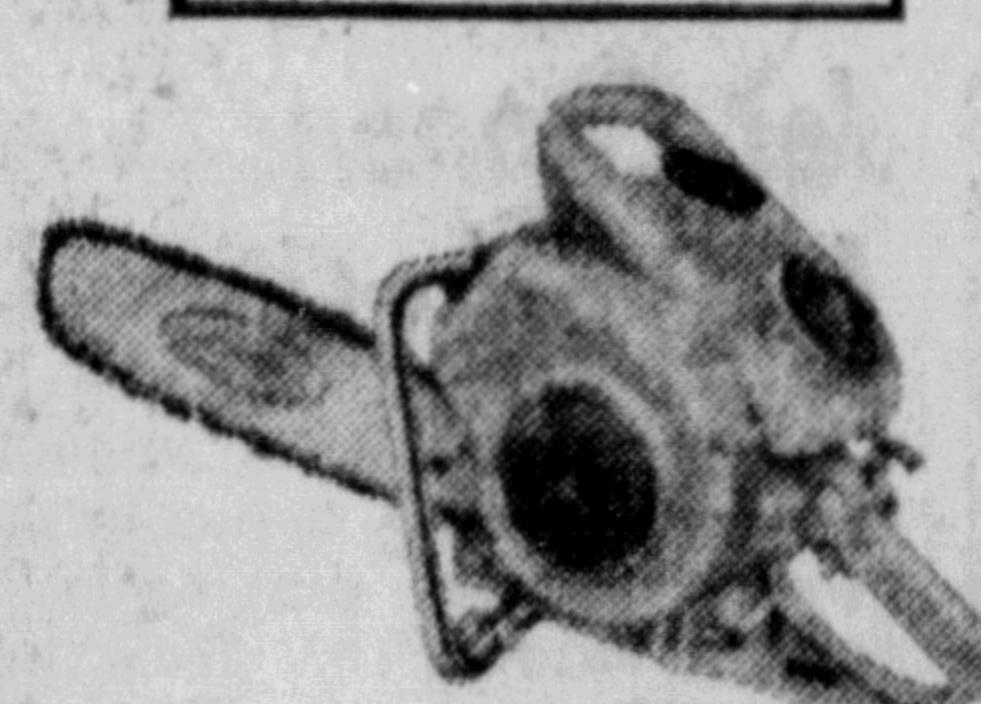
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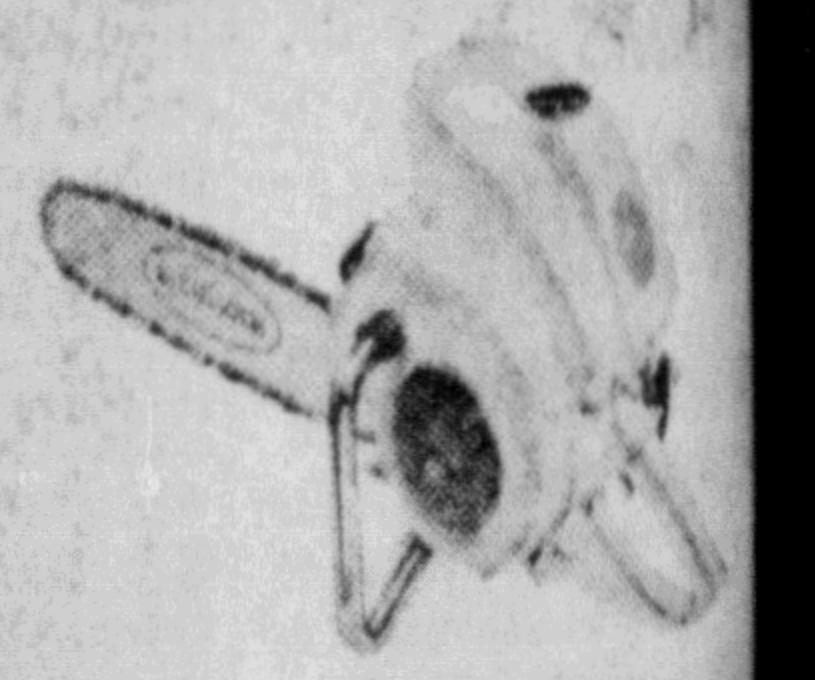
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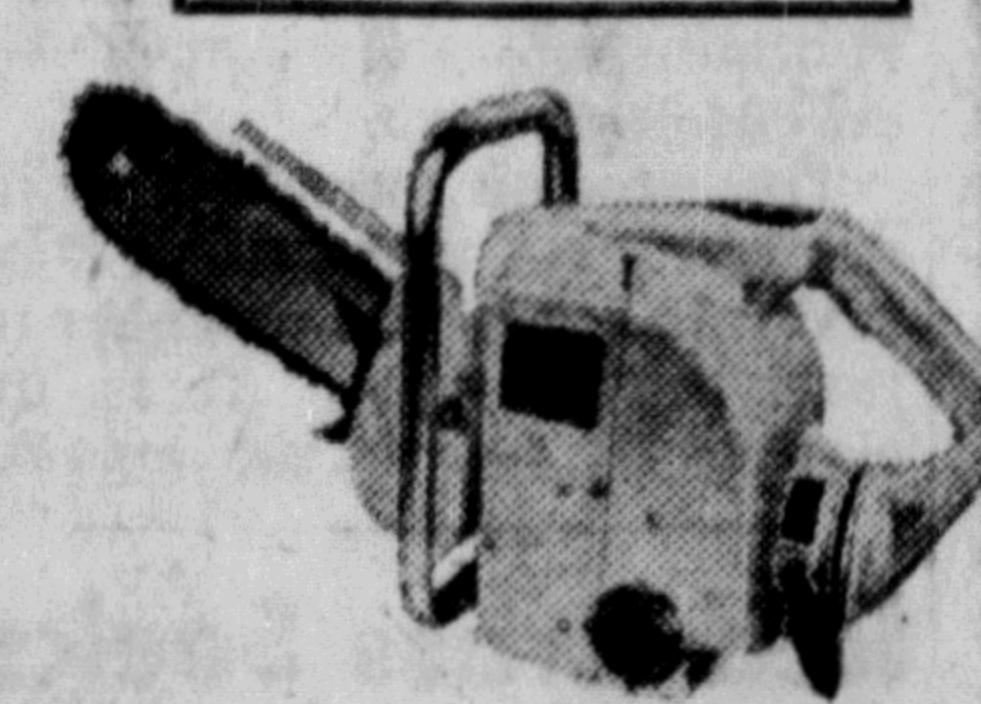
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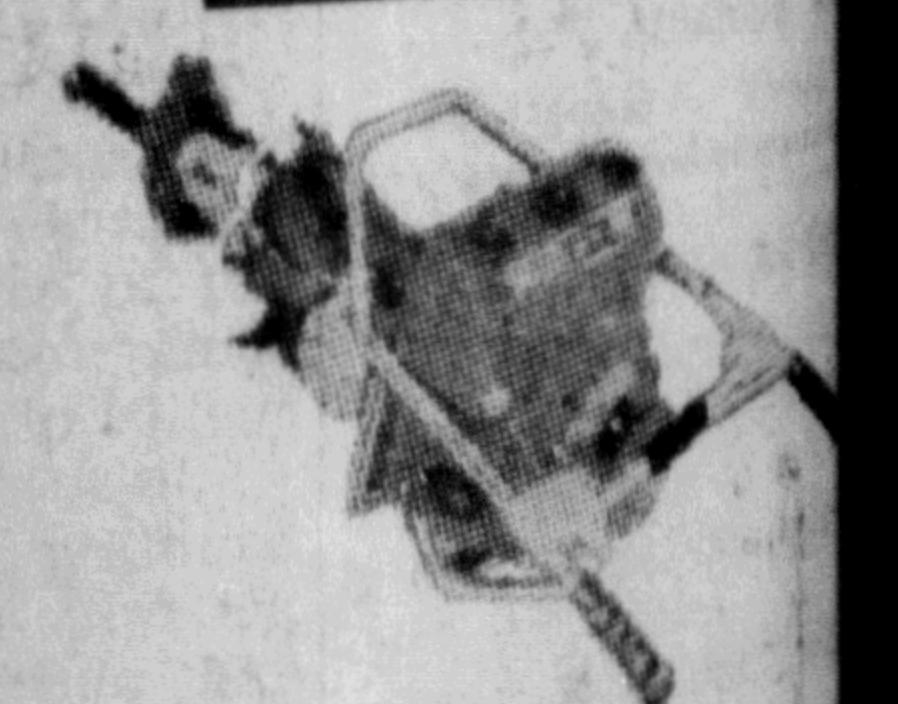
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