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Choice of Material

ALTHOUGH election by acclamation is not always desirable, there is reason to be relieved that vacancies on the school and parks boards have been filled in this manner.

With 13 other names to contend with, voters will have their hands quite full as it is. Naturally, if there were any question of the abilities of those elected to the two boards, we could not afford to be so complacent. But four of the five men concerned are returning to positions in which they have already given excellent service, and the fifth is confidently expected to maintain that standard.

The large number in the aldermanic contest suggests that the calibre of the council is not accorded quite such a high rating. Since the duties there are heavy, citizens with other jobs are likely to hesitate in making themselves available unless they feel there is a real need. As it was, however, nominations were just one short of making it three candidates for every seat to be filled.

Under the circumstances, this is as it should be. If the council is falling apart at certain points, the public should have a good choice of material for putting it together again.

Christmas Carol Festival

WITH so much attention directed to the civic elections, another event of an entirely different kind scheduled for next week is in danger of not receiving the attention it deserves.

It is the Christmas Carol Festival to be held Tuesday and Wednesday at the Civic Centre. The Festival is something new to Prince Rupert and, if rehearsals are any criterion, will prove a splendid success.

A feature of special interest will be the massed choir comprising about 100 voices. This is the first time the various local singing groups ever have been brought together to give a joint performance. It is the finest kind of community effort and one which deserves our full support.

Should the Festival go as well as we anticipate, possibly it will become an annual event. It would be a welcome contribution to our Christmas season.

To make sure that all have an opportunity to hear the singing, plans are being made to broadcast selections from the Festival over station CFPR. We suspect many listeners will be surprised that Prince Rupert has so much musical talent.

LETTERBOX

The Editor, The Daily News:

Last summer, if I recollect correctly, about 125 men took over the lake ships and elevators, the sea and ocean ships, thereby completely stopping the export of grain for some time. This action held up the disposal of the 1952 crop and contributed to the present surplus.

If a handful of men could cause all this trouble we wonder what the government would do in case we were invaded by enemies who did exactly the same thing. If the government is going to crawl on their hands and knees to such a small aggregation of pirates we fail to see why we should be taxed billions to protect us from any enemy.

The more we try to figure things out we wonder what kind of protection the ship, railroad, elevator and farm owners are receiving for their tax money, and we think they must all be crazy to try to carry on business under such conditions.

Why do we go through the force of elections, paying for an army, navy, air force and

police if the government does not use them to protect the men who are conducting the country's business? Could these conditions be history of 1918-19 repeating itself in Russia?

Speaking of history repeating itself reminds us of certain happenings that are recorded in the 37th to 48th chapters of Genesis. Those who have forgotten, and those who do not know what happened at that time, will find these chapters very interesting, and will repay time spent in reading them. When we consider much of the twaddle found in our papers, radio and screen of today we think these happenings could be put on the screen and would be an improvement over some of our present productions. Possibly some ideas therein might be applied to the present pile of so-called surplus wheat, etc.

Smithers, B.C.

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As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Churchill Climax

ON THE same day that Sir Winston Churchill was 79 years of age, he was getting ready to depart next day for the Bermuda conference.

On that day I read the last newspaper installment of his last book on the Second World War.

Churchill will surely loom larger than any other British statesman of this century; and some shrewd observers think he will finally be assessed as one of the greatest Englishmen of all time.

Churchill surely did more than any single individual to thwart Germany's second bid for supreme world power. But nobody can yet accurately judge the effect of certain of the decisions for which he was chiefly responsible.

Churchill's last war book seemed to me to be unduly concerned with justifying the policies which he unsuccessfully urged against those of the late President Roosevelt, which were actually adopted.

The great British wartime leader shows how hard he fought for a joint British-American thrust up through what Churchill always called and still thinks of as "the soft underbelly of Europe." He implies that had his plan not been vetoed by Franklin Roosevelt the forces of the west would have been in Vienna and Belgrade before the Russians ever got there; and the whole post-war balance of power would have been more favorable to Britain and the U.S.A. and less favorable to Russia.

It seems to me that the weakness of Sir Winston's reasoning can easily be demonstrated about this particular matter.

There are technical military books available which give the exact strengths of the Russian, German, British and American armies at any given date. You can even get diagrams with tiny flags for each country's army divisions.

THE CATCH in Sir Winston Churchill's hindsight is that the Russians were always in a position to beat the western allies to any particular goal, or something better.

That is, had the British and Americans tried to beat the Russians to Vienna and Belgrade, the Russians could have countered that move by driving across Germany.

The most serious charge that Churchill makes against Russia in the campaigns of 1944 and 1945 was that the Red army made its main power drive west to the gates of Warsaw, and then stopped cold. It shifted the whole balance of its attacks down into the Balkans. But what would have happened had Churchill won out over Roosevelt, and had the allies driven up from Trieste to Vienna?

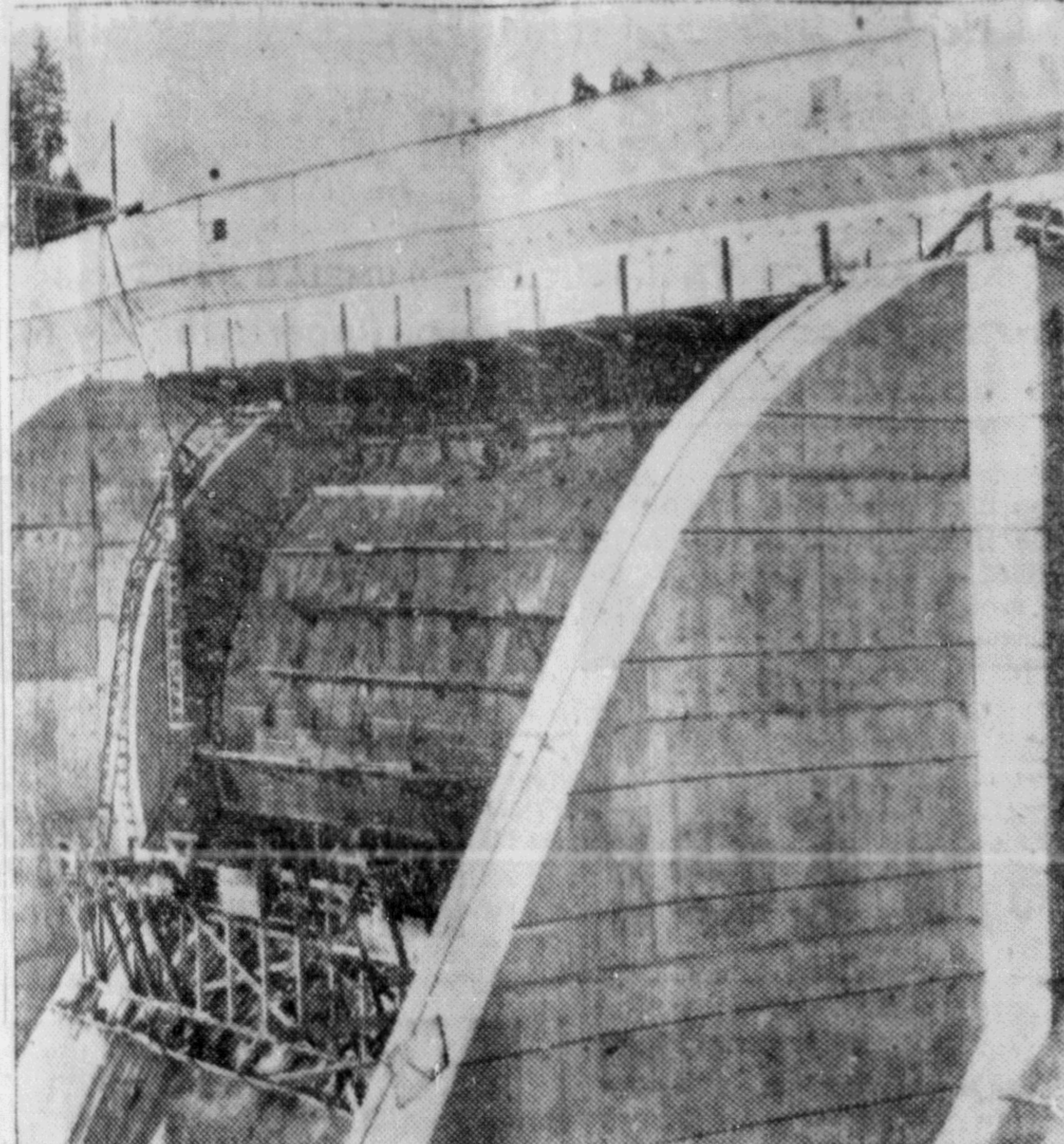
Surely the main Russian armies would not have marched for months, as they did, just outside Warsaw.

THOSE who now criticize the fundamental policies which Roosevelt pursued in partnership with Churchill and Stalin forget that under FDR's policy of agreement with Stalin Russian power finally reached its limits at the Elbe.

Had there been no such agreement, Russian power might well have come west as far as the Rhine, or even to Paris.

ECONOMIC USE

The pulp and paper industry chiefly uses logs unsuited to, or not large enough for the production of lumber.



A MASSIVE DRUM GATE, which will control the flow of water through the \$18,000,000 Cleveland Dam, nears completion across Burrard Inlet near Vancouver. Only 20 more yards of concrete are left to pour of the 140,000,00 yards used since construction started in May, 1951. Note how the giant drum compares in size with the three workmen leaning over the parapet.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The capital's political pundits are still puzzling over that by-election of the past week in Victoria where Hon. E. M. Gunderson, provincial treasurer in British Columbia's Social Credit government, found the going so rough.

Gunderson's showing was such a complete surprise to all expectations that Parliament Hill's experts suspect that they should be able to draw some very fundamental conclusion regarding the general west coast political situation from it. But the trouble is that too many paradoxes are involved to allow any one central fact to emerge clearly.

For example: In the provincial general election of last June in British Columbia, Victoria as one of the seats which the Social Credit high command wrote off as hopeless. It was the stronghold of Mrs. Nancy Hodges, first woman speaker of a British legislature, and the Bennett government forces figured that they just didn't have a chance anywhere in that vicinity. But when the votes were counted, their candidate had a majority running into the thousands. It looked as though overnight Victoria had become a hot-bed of Social Credit enthusiasm.

Consequently, when the problem of securing a seat for provincial treasurer Gunderson had to be solved finally, the occurrence of a by-election in Victoria seemed providential. The Bennett government wasn't alone in its confidence. The provincial Liberal forces were so discouraged that for a long time no candidate could be found to contest the seat. Finally a young local lawyer, George F. Gregory, took on the chore of showing the flag on Liberalism's behalf.

He didn't expect to win. But he worked hard, because that is the way he goes at everything he does. Nevertheless, it is said that no one was more surprised than he at the upset he caused.

Strike Over In Britain

LONDON (CP)—Wheels of British industry started again today after a 24-hour halt forced by the greatest labor stoppage in the United Kingdom since the general strike of 1926.

Between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 workers answered Wednesday's union strike call to back demand for a 15-per-cent wage increase. About 4,250 shipyard, automotive, and aviation factories and other industrial plants were affected.

ELECTORS

Watch the Power Machine designed to kill the CITY WATCHDOG - CASEY who's only crime is loyalty to the City and service to its people. ALDERMAN CASEY speaks over CFPR - MONDAY, DEC. 7 6 P.M.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Ten miles of tunnelling through a mountain has been finished right to six inches at Kemano, and that's pretty darned good surveying.

THE DANGER SEASON

According to specialists, the heart attack season is here again. Climate and the weather are reported to have an important bearing on efficiency. If over 40, refuse to shovel snow, and decline to linger on a street corner insufficiently clad. But surely a physician will permit the raising of an umbrella when this is politely requested.

One that is proud of his birth is like a turnip. There is nothing good of him but what is underground.—Ex.

WITHIN THE LAW

Eleven per cent of the prison population of Canada, totalling 5,000, are reported to be under 21 years of age. Referring to Kingston, as well as other penitentiaries, Commissioner Gibson says it is a matter of grave concern that instead of prison, the offenders should be dealt with in some other way. Of course, they could always be requested to behave in a manner generally conceded to be proper, and therefore within the law.

City girl, telling friends about her brother-in-law's farm, said: "It's one of those experimental farms where the cows have calves without any bulls around—they call it artificial insemination."—Contributed by Kathryn Donnelly.

HERE AND NOW

Not in many a year has there been more active interest in municipal affairs in Prince Rupert than now. Youth is climbing into the saddle. That appears to be today's tendency. It's now and in the immediate future that must studied. It's today we want to think. Splendid services have already been given. There is no question about that, but we are not living yesterday.

No one in Canada can earn enough to keep his wife, if himself, through writing stories.

comments an eastern publisher. Nevertheless, there are thousands of well paid yarns coming from over the border. Americans and Canadians are interested in one another, and in one another's countries. When Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" a century ago her first readers were no more numerous and enthusiastic than the Yanks and Canucks.



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CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT IMPORTANT NOTICE

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ALL garbage is to be taken to ALGOMA PARK on McBRIDE STREET between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. ONLY.

G. E. BEATON, Supt. of Public Works.

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