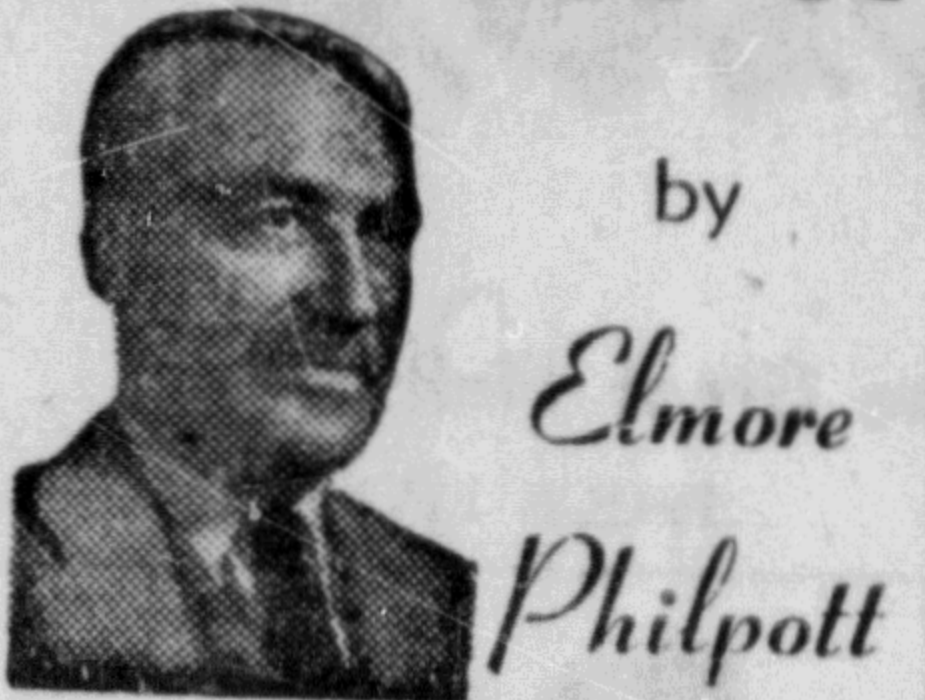


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As I See It



1954 Not 1934

AS THE new year begins a great argument is raging among the experts as to whether or not the U.S.A. is going to have a mere recession in business, or a serious depression.

C. D. Howe, who is one of the most hard-headed business statesmen in the whole world, comes down solidly on the side of the optimists.

We won't have long to wait to know who is right. But meantime this is true:

The "system" under which western countries operate in 1954 is vastly different from that which existed 20 years ago. An invisible revolution has taken place—inch by inch.

WHERE the Communists and other Marxian doctrinaires went wrong in their analysis of the so-called "capitalist" system was in assuming that it was any such thing as a "system."

A country which operates under a truly free system of democracy is changing its "system" every year, and in fact, by degrees every month, every week, almost every hour.

Here is an example of what I mean. No political party which has yet held office as the government of Canada ever planned to set up an overall "welfare state." But bit by bit and step by step we have got such a state. Moreover, although the Conservatives have at times opposed the application of wider welfare measures, they have at other times vied with the Liberals in bringing them in, or in consolidating and improving them once they were established.

Canada now leads the western hemisphere in such things as Family Allowances, Old Age Grants. Moreover, once having accepted the principle, Canada will step by step improve these devices.

A few years ago, when I began to write in this column for old age pensions of \$60 per month at age 60, some timid people held up their hands in holy terror and raised the old cry, "Where is the money going to come from?"

They proved, on paper, that even \$40 at age 70 would bankrupt the country. Now we have had the \$40 at age 70 for years.

As expenditures for hot war and cold war are cut down, grants for welfare on the home front will be increased. This will not only prove a boon to the old and young, but will maintain the people's purchasing power, maintain markets, and so forestall economic collapse like that after 1930.

The wises have shown democracies how they can prosper in peace.

All we need to do is to embrace PHILPOTT Page 5



CANADA'S DEFENCE MINISTER CLAXTON signs the golden book at the town hall of Soest, Germany, where Canadian soldiers are stationed under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The Christmas-New Year holiday week is traditionally a time for buoyant spirits in this political nerve-centre of the nation, no less than anywhere else.

The way they have it figured out in an elaborate analysis which has been mailed out to the members of the Parliamentary caucus, last June's general election result was far from being a total disaster. In fact, the PC statisticians manage to demonstrate that it had some highly encouraging features of the well-known silver lining nature.

Take the result in Newfoundland. True, the PC's lost the only two seats they had held there in the last Parliament and gained none by way of compensation. But that's looking at things the narrow way.

Canada now leads the western hemisphere in such things as Family Allowances, Old Age Grants. Moreover, once having accepted the principle, Canada will step by step improve these devices.

In Nova Scotia the PC's have only one seat where formerly they held three. But, once again, theirs was the moral victory. For in the total popular vote they climbed 7,125, while the Liberals dropped 1,232.

In the PC book Quebec and Ontario were really the star performers. In the French-speaking province, traditional stronghold of Liberalism, the PC's gained a thumping 63,130 votes over 1949. And the Liberals lost 18,404 from their 1949 total. That's a

VICTORIA REPORT By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA — It would seem there was some nasty little politics in all the opposition to the school building referendum. The Liberals led the fight which resulted in the referendum's defeat.

Actually, it seems to many that it's time the public was stopped being asked to vote every time a municipal council wants to spend some money.

Some people say it's democracy that the taxpayers should be allowed to vote on money by-laws. But can't this kind of thing go too far—or does it go far enough?

If the citizens of Victoria should have to vote on \$1,000,000 for a new school, why shouldn't the citizens of British Columbia be called out to express their wishes before the government can spend \$10,000,000 on a highway—or pour millions into the PGE?

But to put the whole situation in a nutshell: The PC's last June made a net gain in the popular vote of 40,000. They now have only 1,000,000 more to go to win top-dog position.

LIVESTOCK BOOM CALGARY (CP) — A record total of 208,334 head of cattle and calves were marketed at the Alberta stockyards here in the first 11 months of '53.

The public, too, is apparently coming to feel that the elected

representatives should take more of this responsibility. The public shows its feelings by refusing to turn out, in any numbers, to vote on these money by-laws.

"Let the mayor and aldermen decide—that's what we elected them for—if we don't like what they do we'll throw them out," says the public.

MLAs, of course, who can vote money without consulting the people, like to hamstring and hogtie mayors and aldermen, Reeves and councillors and school trustees.

The whole situation makes little sense. A city council gets the views of the people on whether it will spend \$25,000 a year on charity, but MLAs can pass a budget of \$150,000,000 and vote to borrow millions without asking the people about it.

It was good recently to see in the Victoria papers a picture of George S. Pearson, and to know that a new ferry, to run between Salt Spring Island and Vancouver Island, at Crofton, is named for him.

No man has done more for B.C. than George S. Pearson. What an outstanding career he has had—Minister of Labour, Provincial Secretary, Minister of Health and Welfare.

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CBC Program Changes

MUCH favorable comment was heard when the CBC announced its plans to bring new and better programs to Prince Rupert.

Inevitably the changes will not suit everyone, but most listeners will find something that pleases them.

In this matter of trying to satisfy the public fancy, a number of tricky problems are involved. It is necessary to entertain the largest number for the longest possible period, yet still find time to do something for those listeners whose interests are never likely to be the majority's—if there is such a thing as a majority in a radio audience.

The situation is made more delicate by the fact that the hours when a full audience can be reached are decidedly limited. If a listener hears nothing during the evening hours that he enjoys, the chances are that he will condemn the whole business no matter how much of his favorite kind of program is carried at less popular times.

As far as the CBC is concerned, its national character compels it to do some strange things from the local point of view. During the important lunchtime period, for example, the port of Prince Rupert gets half an hour of farming news.

Even so, the CBC provides us with a very creditable amount of excellent entertainment. The latest changes are encouraging evidence that this area has a definite place on the network's map.

The National Flag

THE QUESTION of a national flag for Canada has been nicely tucked away for another session of Parliament, but it is doubtful if the matter will be handled in nearly as entertaining a fashion the next time it comes up.

It's easy to understand the reluctance of Mr. St. Laurent and his colleagues to do something about a Canadian flag; whatever they do, there'll be shrill screams from some part of the country. Sooner or later, however, we'll have to get us a flag that people in other lands will recognize as a symbol of Canada.

The committee set up by Mackenzie King in 1946 considered 2,635 designs for flags and then settled almost unanimously on an adaptation of the Red Ensign. It is only a short step removed from the Ensign which has been quietly hoisted above more and more buildings during recent years.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

The world is supposed to have a weight of 36,000,000,000 tons. However, it seems even heavier when you carry the thing around on your shoulders.

NOW SAFE It's rather infrequent to find a man possessing a five foot beard, and with no hesitation exposing it in public. You see, he has been given a large assortment of Christmas neckties. His home is in North Dakota.

Forty-six applications for the granting of a divorce appeared in a Vancouver daily early last week. An enterprising newspaper is apt to want anything.

Until he had become engaged to her, no man was supposed to kiss a girl. This, of course was in the old days. But today, all he need do is wait until it can be said until the paint is dry.

NOT IMPOSSIBLE An astronomer says its the rotation of the earth that makes

the globe be as much as thirty seconds behind the time. However, there's another side to it. For all you know, perhaps your watch is a shade slow.

It is a strange thing but as the year rolled on to its close, perhaps more people would rather put the clock back than to turn it forward. The future has become tense and uneasy. It seems as though man has made too many discoveries for his own peace. People seem now almost to cling to each other as it passes, reluctant to let go of something they have known and felt sure of. But change has never been easy to accept.

For the fourth year in a row, L. B. Pearson was the newest Canadian on the page of his country's newspapers. He held first place easily over all the others. As Minister of External Affairs he was a central figure if ever there was one. And he never let Canada down.

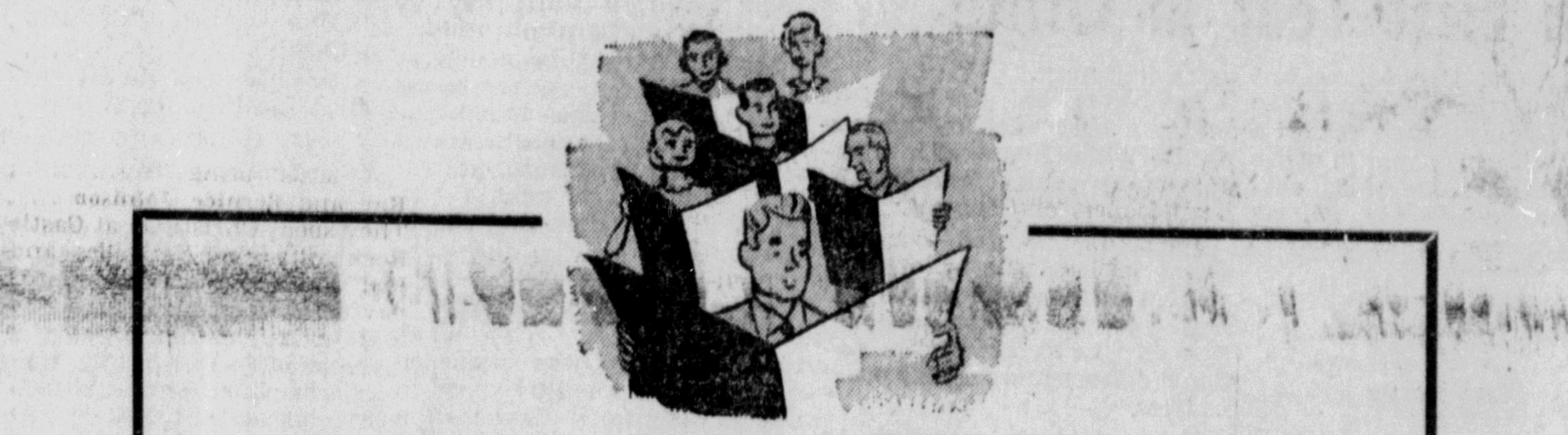
ANNOUNCEMENT—CHANGE OF LOCATION

Keith H. Tucker, Optometrist (successor to L. Gonick) is now located at 210 Fourth Street between Second and Third Avenues Directly Across From The Skeena Health Unit Phone 212

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