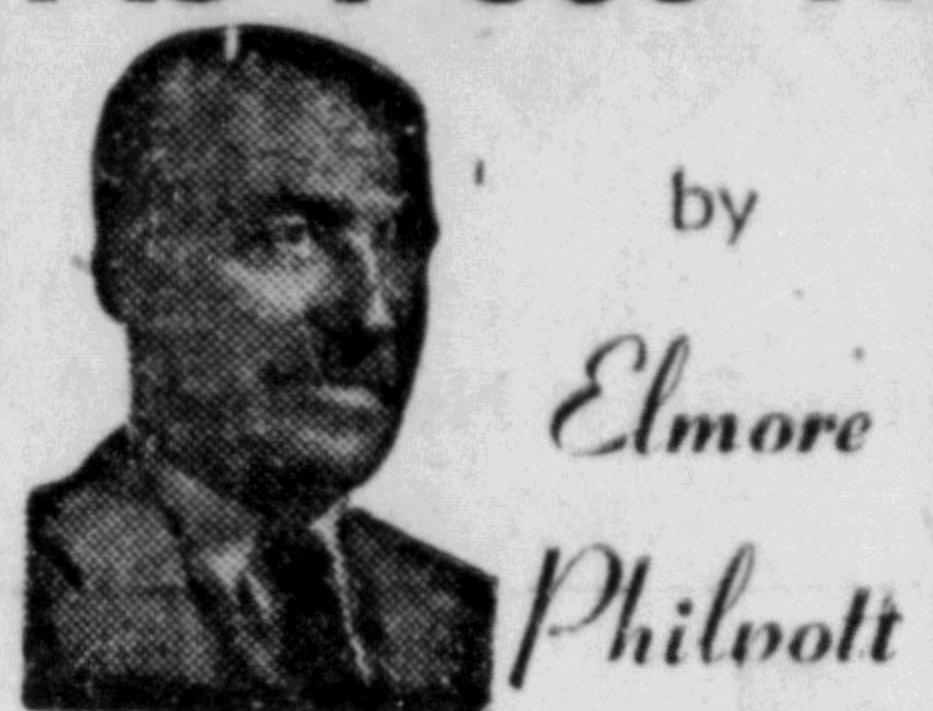


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As I See It



by Elmore Philvott

THE NEW Criminal Code of Canada has now been passed into law, so far as the House of Commons is concerned.

Only the three most contentious matters remain for future decision. They are, the death penalty, corporal punishment, and the legal definition of insanity in criminal cases. The first two questions are now being studied by a parliamentary committee, and the insanity question will be dealt with by a Royal Commission, before final decision by parliament.

IT WAS a thrilling, and illuminating experience for me, as a new M.P., to sit in on this major revision and codification of the laws of Canada. For this of course was much more than a routine overhaul of our Criminal Code, which has been on our law books since 1892. For the first time in the history of Canada, all the crimes are now plainly set forth—and the old "common law" inherited from Britain has been superseded. That is, from now on, nobody in Canada may be charged with any kind of a crime, unless that offence is plainly named in the Criminal Code of Canada as a crime.

THE PRESENT parliament worked for months on this codification of the Code, and the basis on which it worked was a draft bill which emerged from many years of previous work.

All the work of the House of Commons was completely free—completely non-partisan. Both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice had told the House, in advance, that members were to be free to speak and vote on every question, without any dictation or pressure from the government or any political party. This was carried out not only in letter but in spirit. In fact, most of us on the government side thought that the Minister of Justice went, if anything, too far in trying to get unanimity from the whole House on almost every clause. He had the patience of Job.

There was not a single amendment, submitted from inside or from outside the House, which did not receive the fullest consideration from him, and from his law advisers. Many of the suggestions submitted by the CCF, Conservative, or Social Credit members, were adopted provided only that their sponsors could make out a case which convinced the majority.

THERE was no section of the Code which got such thorough consideration as that of special interest to organized labor and trade unions. For months the Minister of Justice carried on consultations with the three great trade union bodies in Canada. In addition, he met with and considered the submissions of Communist led trade unions, with exactly the same consideration as for others.

All the important submissions on which the three unions themselves were agreed were incorporated.

The government did not agree, however to relax the main laws against treason, sedition, or use of violence in labor or political disputes.

My own impression of the Criminal Code of Canada as it now stands is that it is a first class job. The biggest debate, of course is still to come—on whether or not we are to retain the death penalty.

Rattlesnakes By Ton Caught In Big Roundup

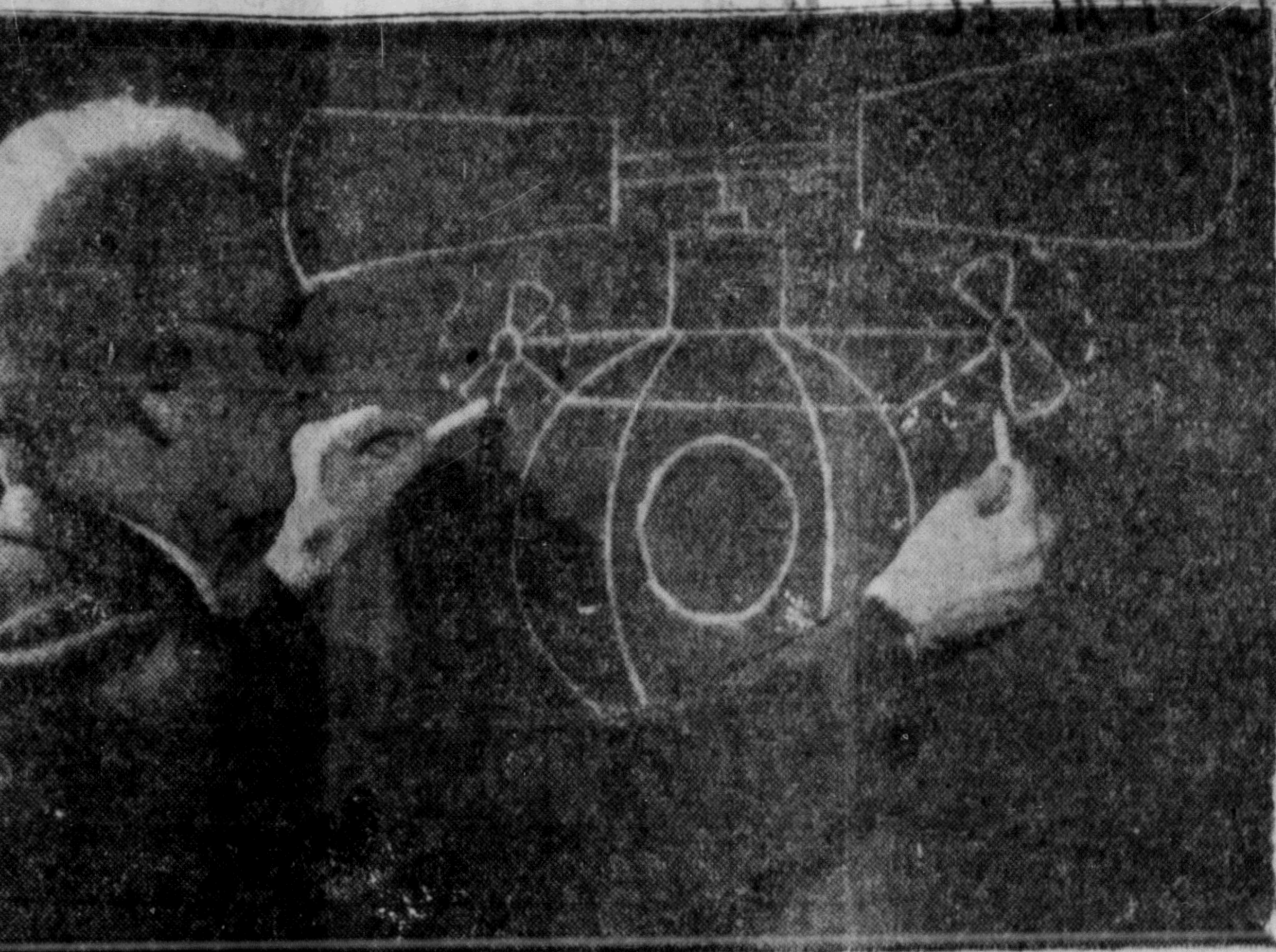
OKEENA, Okla. (AP)—Nearly a ton of venomous rattlesnakes buzzing their defiance, were captured alive in Salt Creek Canyon in the 15th annual rattlesnake roundup.

The bizarre "sporting event" drew an estimated 20,000 persons from 26 states. The foray into the reptile-infested gypsum hills was sponsored by the International Association of Rattlesnake Hunters.

Joe Durham, chief rattler, said 1,576 snakes were snared, either with forked sticks, special snake-catching tongs or by the braver souls with bare hands.

SHEEP ISLANDS

The acreage of the Falkland Islands, crown colony in the South Atlantic, is divided into sheep farms.



PROFESSOR AUGUSTE PICCARD uses both hands for speed to sketch his latest invention on a blackboard in Brussels, Belgium. It is the "Mesoscaphé," an underwater helicopter which will be used for research at depths down to 6,000 feet. A huge rotor fixed above the conning tower will allow the sphere to ascend and descend vertically like a helicopter. Two propellers, protruding diagonally from the tower base and powered by electric motors from within the shell of the machine, will propel the "Mesoscaphé" forward and backward.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Just a few days ago this Correspondent happened upon an informant who had some arresting views on the gold situation generally and the outlook for a return to the gold standard particularly.

LETTERBOX

UNABLE TO GRASP VISION
 The Editor,
 The Daily News:

It must have been inspiring to the northern pioneers who read the uncompromising resolution of the Liberal executive on the drydock question forwarded to Ottawa, protesting against the Gordon plan of scuttling the Prince Rupert drydock.

The drydock is a vital portion of the Laurier plan of bridging the Pacific to the markets of the Orient in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad... a vision founded on fewer ocean miles and superior railroad grade connecting the port of Prince Rupert with the huge Oriental markets.

If Donald Gordon's wish and will come true, then the words uttered many years ago by the George Foster, that the port of Prince Rupert appears to be struggling under a curse, will have come true, beyond a doubt.

Therefore, we must strive to hold what we have today and pray that the day is not far distant when the Dominion government will find a Vanhorn, a Jim Hill or a Harriman to direct the affairs of the CNR system and the fulfillment of the Laurier-Hayes vision... the foundation of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Port of Prince Rupert.

Those two great men have passed on, and bequeathed to us who remain a railroad and a drydock, and told us how it should be used in world trade affairs. So let us forget the coupon clipping idea of Mr. Gordon and reaffirm our faith on the original designers, Laurier and Hayes, and the Prince Rupert harbor, second to none in the world.

Mr. Editor, while the CNR system is truly the property of the people of Canada, let it be understood that the city of Prince Rupert, its people and the pioneers of the north have made a great contribution to that enterprise, I venture to say more than any other settlement in Canada.

Now, after more than 40 years labor and investment, we are confronted with a Gordon torpedo blast.

I know not what course the government may take on this vital question. But I venture to say any Liberal government foolish enough to agree to the sale and removal of the Prince Rupert floating drydock is committing suicide, through the betrayal of not only a revered leader, but also the people who have faithfully worked and invested for over 46 years in this district.

May I further point out to the dominion government that the Prince Rupert drydock has been officially boycotted by CNR officials in the annual overhauling of their own coastwise ships. May some cabinet ministers ask Donald Gordon why.

I wish to insert one request of our friend Ted Applewhalke, that he pass this letter around to some of the cabinet ministers at Ottawa.

Ald. GEORGE B. CASEY (Now serving his 23rd year as Prince Rupert alderman.)

HIGHEST RANK

The title of Field Marshal, highest rank in the British Army, was introduced by King George II in 1736.

The point he made in the latter connection was that the price inflation of the war and post-war years made a return to the gold standards completely impossible. Since prices have advanced generally anywhere from about 250 to 400 percent, one of two things would have had to have happened to gold to enable it to function again as a base, namely, (a) its price would have had to have risen proportionately to the rise in the price of commodities or (b) its amount would have had to have increased proportionately to the rise in the price of commodities.

But as neither of these things had happened, our informant emphasized that there just wasn't enough gold in the world to serve as a base for the amount of currency that has to circulate in these days of inflated prices.

The obvious answer, if the economic world wanted the stability traditionally associated with the gold standard, was an increase in the price of gold, and quite a sharp increase, too.

Then our informant added another rather astonishing piece of information. He said that during the past year gold had depreciated quite sharply in terms of

the French franc. In the free gold market of Tangiers, it now took some thousands of French francs fewer than it did a year ago to buy an ounce of the precious metal.

At the time that seemed an amazing development. And the more we thought about it afterwards, the stranger it seemed. For the French Government has earned the reputation since the war of being the most unstable in Europe. And confidence in its currency has suffered accordingly. Why the French francs should be growing in value and imperishable gold be decreasing in value seemed a first class mystery.

The more we thought about it, the more it seemed to us that here was a subject worth checking into further and writing about. We determined to look up our informant at the first opportunity and go into the matter thoroughly with him.

Well, we just won't be able to do that now. For our informant was Rodney Adamson, MP, and as everyone knows now Rodney Adamson and his wife were passengers on the ill-fated Flight No. 9 of Trans-Canada Airways which crashed over Moose Jaw. In his death Parliament loses an authority on gold who had a world-wide reputation. In the light of the importance of the gold-mining industry to this country it is truly a national loss.

LONG HAUL

Water is piped 200 miles, mostly uphill, to supply gold mines at Kalgoorlie, Australia.

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The Fox and The Grapes

A HUNGRY FOX saw some fine bunches of Grapes hanging from a vine that was trained along a high trellis, and did his best to reach them by jumping as high as he could into the air. But it was all in vain, for they were just out of reach; so he gave up trying, and walked away with an air of dignity and unconcern, remarking, "I thought those Grapes were ripe, but I see now they are quite sour."

MORAL: Instead of saying "sour grapes" when you can't immediately attain your ambitions, build a ladder to success by opening a savings account with The Canadian Bank of Commerce. Add to your balance regularly and you'll soon be in a position to get what you seek.

Illustration by Arthur Rackham, from the Heinemann Edition of Aesop's Fables.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

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Drop From Plane Fatal

JOHORE BAHRU, Malaya (AP)—A Chinese fell or jumped to his death from the rear hatch of a Singapore-bound Malayan Airways plane today. Police recovered the body in a pineapple field and gave the man's name as Chent Chen, a business man who boarded the plane at Kuala Lumpur.

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