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Trans-Pacific Squeeze Play

THIS with a sense of angry frustration that we learn about the case of the Japanese oranges. Here is bald proof that Prince Rupert with its proximity to the Orient, its fine all-year harbor and its rail connections with the rest of the continent is being deliberately denied its deserved place on the trade routes of the Pacific.

The story is an infuriating but simple one. Because Prince Rupert is not recognized as a Pacific coast terminal by an international body of shipowners called the Trans-Pacific Freight Conference out of Japan, shipments to the port are subject to extra rates. The idea seems to be to put certain ports in disfavor so that vessels coming from the Orient will not make too many calls.

In the particular case of the Japanese oranges there is a special levy of \$4.50 per ton on any importer reckless enough to bring them through Prince Rupert. Shippers who had the oranges delivered here last year learned of this penalty after the oranges were loaded at Japan. It was too late to do anything about it then, so they absorbed the difference. But they do not intend to repeat the performance this year. There will be no oranges.

So how do we become classified as a Pacific coast terminal port to correct all this? According to advice from Japan, we will receive that honor as soon as there is enough traffic coming here to justify it.

Of all the weird riddles ever inflicted on the intelligence of a people looking for a few straight answers, that one has earned a place among the classics. We will be named a terminal port when there is sufficient business to warrant it, but how do we get that business while surcharges are in effect?

This suggests no discredit to the Canadian ambassador to Japan who was drawn into the matter. On the contrary, his endeavors to help have been conscientious and warmly appreciated. It appears, however, that Prince Rupert is the victim of a squeeze play which the participants prefer to couch in more subtle language. In our less polished words, it means they are promising us the business but giving us the works.

With such large forces against us, there is no ready solution. Any influence the CNR could exert on our behalf is limited because it has no trans-Pacific service and is therefore not a member of the Conference. The CPR is a member but has no rail service here to warrant its taking up the issue.

Consequently, we of this northwest district, which sorely needs the stimulus of more trade and more recognition of every kind, are virtually on our own. Even so, the odds are not bad. What we lack in numbers, we can make up in nuisance value. Sometimes that is the only way to make others aware of a good thing.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

A genuine honest-to-goodness who met every morning under coast guard service for the British Columbia coast is on the way to becoming a fact. Announcements were heard Monday. Nothing is needed more. Dependence on a good neighbor has already been called a disgrace, and it's deserved.

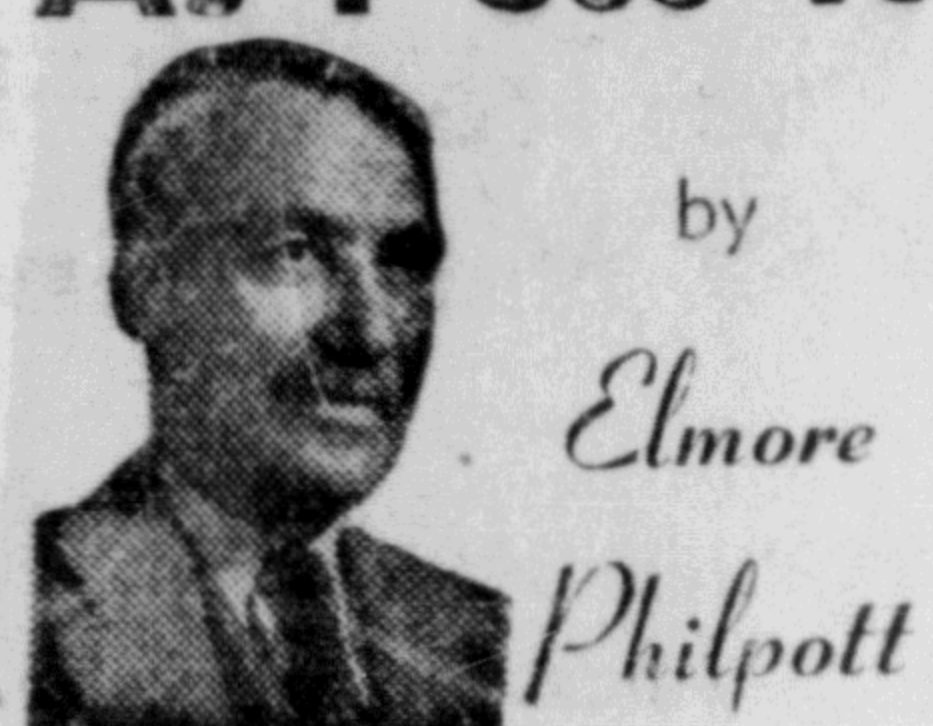
There's nothing wrong with the movies that a few good pictures won't fix. This, from a gang of Hollywood super-critics. It's all we need, because there are so many pictures that are not good and never will be.

Spain is to have United States air bases, and soccer, baseball and basketball continue to increase in popularity. But bull-fighting isn't. In fact, it's in the other direction. Once the national sport, bull-fights may soon become extinct, the way Yankee ideas are making headway.

More than thirty lives were lost in an airservice blast in Boston harbor last week-end. Monday twenty more perished in a Mexican-Texas flight. That makes fifty, at least, all of which is to be deeply regretted. For that, from the aviation angle, is about all that can be done.

Paris, for many travellers, is the city of fashion and gaiety, but in real life, Paris is the city of children, writes Ruth McKenney. I remember two little boys

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Who Wants Bargains?

THE Democrats have elected a Congressman in a district in Wisconsin which never before in all history voted anything else but Republican.

The Wisconsin farmers are in furious revolt against the farm policies of the Republican administration. The harassed Secretary of Agriculture is like the hunter who said:

"I've caught a bear—but he won't let go!"

TWO TINY news items show that the problem which troubles the U.S.A. will hit us here, too.

One reads, "PARIS. — The French government has declined an offer to sell any part of the 200,000 tons of excess American butter here for 10 cents a cent a pound, it was learned Wednesday."

The second reports: "Here in Ontario, tens and tens of the very finest of tomatoes are said to have rotted on the ground because the processors had declined that the market could take."

NO FAIR-MINDED person can blame farmers, for insisting that the government maintain the floor prices so that farm families will be able to sell some products in line with prices of what they must purchase.

But no sensible farmer will imagine that the governments of Canada or the U.S.A. can go on buying farm produced foods, and indefinitely holding those foods in vast hoarded, spoiling surplus.

New ways of distribution have to be found. But no government which guarantees floor prices for farm products can permit cut-rate sales of those same products in its home market without aggravating the very condition it set out to correct in the first place.

Also, the answer of France to the offer of 10-cent bargain butter shows that exactly the same principle applies to exported foods.

The French farmers would be down on the necks of their own cabinet ministers tomorrow if bargain U.S. butter were dumped on the French market, and so reduced the income of French farm families.

BACK in 1943 Hon. W. D. Herried wrote a remarkable book titled "Which Kind of Revolution?"

Two years before the Hitler war came to an end Mr. Herried showed that the great post-war problem would be the very surpluses which now pile up like mountains.

So far as I can see, there are only three ways to get rid of those surpluses:

1. Issue coupons to pensioners and others on low incomes who cannot now buy the butter, etc., held as government-owned surpluses at home.
2. Export the stuff wherever we can for whatever money or goods we can get for it.
3. Give increased amounts to famine and calamity areas.

By-Election Date Set by Premier

VICTORIA (C)—Premier W. A. C. Bennett announced Tuesday a by-election will be held in Victoria Nov. 24 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Percy Wright, Social Credit member.

Finance Minister Einar Gunderson, defeated in the June provincial election, will be the Social Credit candidate.

Mr. Wright, a surprise victor in Victoria, traditionally a Liberal seat, is out of two jobs now.

He was assistant city clerk when he entered the election campaign, but on his election to the House he was refused a leave of absence. A municipal law prohibits such leave for political purposes.

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PRIME MINISTER ST. LAURENT (left) unveils a monument to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, former prime minister. The memorial, designed by Emile Brunet (right) of Paris and Montreal, is in downtown Montreal's Dominion Square.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

One of the criticisms of current federal policy most commonly heard in Parliament Hill circles for several months past is its alleged indifference to the United Kingdom, and its dangerous dependence upon the United States, in matters of trade.

The criticism isn't taken too seriously in impartial economic circles. Trade experts recognize that the flow of international commerce is controlled only to minor degree by ideological concepts, and that it responds mainly to the call of readily available markets.

Germany Seeking Canadian Trade Says Guardian

MANCHESTER (CP)—Canada is Germany's biggest target in a trade drive now in progress, the Manchester Guardian says in a dispatch from Bonn.

It says the federal German republic is sponsoring a campaign to obtain markets and establish capital investments, spearheaded by offices in five West German cities. Projected German industrial enterprises in Canada number about 200, half of which would be in Ontario.

The dispatch adds that Canadian provincial governments are thinking of opening offices in Germany. "If this happens it will be a significant event. Provincial administrations—as opposed to the federal government in Canada—are prepared to advance capital for foreign undertakings."

The paper's long, detailed story listed several reasons for German determination to penetrate Canadian markets. These included Germany's loss of markets in the past, payments difficulties in Brazil which emphasize the advantages of doing business in Canada, and a German recognition that Canada is "the most desirable single market in the world."

Commented The Guardian: "The challenge to Britain is bold and open, and moreover, perfectly fair, but that does not make it any less dangerous."

Good Samaritan

AUCKLAND, N.Z. (CP)—David Potter, 20, put coins in expiring parking meters with a note explaining that a fine had been avoided and inviting donations to the Congregational Church. Potter gave up after spending 200 coins and getting less than half back in donations.

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VICTORIA REPORT By J. K. Mc

It was ever thus—the mad, frantic scramble towards the end of a legislative session. Perhaps this session it was worse than usual. There were four night sittings in a row last week—and that takes an awful toll of your MLAs. As Liberal leader Arthur Laing said, it was legislation by exhaustion.

However, the premier had evidently made up his mind he'd get the MLAs out of the government's way my week's end. Of course, he wouldn't admit that in public, but you could tell he'd set his program and was sticking to it.

Three Resolutions To Be Presented By City Group

Among the 56 resolutions about which delegates will argue at the 50th annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities are three from Prince Rupert city council.

To attend the convention in Vancouver October 28, 29 and 30 will be Mayor Harold Whalen, Aldermen Mike Krueger and Kay Smith and City Clerk R. W. Long.

At a special meeting of the council last night the mayor and aldermen reviewed the resolutions which will be brought to the convention floor.

In an effort to alleviate the present heavy burden of taxation on the municipal taxpayer the Prince Rupert council is urging that the federal government introduce legislation to provide exemption of all municipalities, councils and school boards from the payment of excise taxes including the 10 per cent sales tax on all purchases of machinery and other equipment.

The same resolution also urges that federal legislation will provide for taxation of all federal government properties in municipalities on the same basis as that of ordinary municipal taxpayers.

Another Prince Rupert resolution asks that since cost of law enforcement provoked by sale of liquor falls on the municipalities, that the provincial government allocate to the municipalities profits from the sale of liquor borne by the municipalities in law enforcement occasioned by the misuse of the government liquor.

The third resolution to be placed before the convention by Prince Rupert asserts that since native Indians are being enfranchised in increasing numbers and in many cases such Indians and their children acquire social assistance that it is unfair that residential responsibility should be transferred by enfranchisement immediately. Therefore Prince Rupert asks that the Residence and Responsibility Act be amended so that no residence acquired before enfranchisement shall penalize the municipality.

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