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Keep the Elevator Open

FOR NEARLY two years now Prince Rupert's waterfront has shared in the activity of the nation's all-around first industry—agriculture—with the reopening of the Dominion government grain elevator.

Canada's grainfields have yielded splendidly in the last three years. This year promises to produce a crop only slightly below the record one of last season. But somehow, the federal government has deemed it necessary to warn the nation that its crop might be difficult to market.

This situation lies in the face of thousands upon thousands of near-starving people in the Orient and in other countries less fortunate than we, who are among the world's primary bread-wheat producers.

A stoppage of grain shipping would seriously affect Prince Rupert's waterfront activity and its economy as well as that of the entire country. But this could likely be avoided if the Canadian Wheat Board sharpened its pencils a little and narrowed down the margin of profit on a bushel of grain.

The buyers of our grain know that we have plenty of it. They feel, therefore, that they are entitled to a little reduction in its price.

Perhaps we could do much worse than sell more wheat at a lower price. Or, we may be pricing ourselves out of another lucrative market in the primary industries.

We have already done so in fishing and lumbering.

We Should be Prepared

FOR the second time in a week, we have found ourselves unprepared to meet an emergency.

In the absence of any established arrangement for handling rescue operations in this rugged flying country, precious time was lost yesterday while airline officials discussed the fate of a plane reported missing between here and Terrace.

Thanks to the initiative of Queen Charlotte Airlines, a plane was readied quickly and took to the air. Speed is probably the most important thing during a rescue, yet unnecessary delays are caused by failure to establish a set-up here.

A man's life could be lost while waiting for directions from Vancouver where RCAF air-sea rescue operations are supervised.

In cases such as yesterday's and the recent search of American oil magnate Ellis Hall, the first few hours can mean the difference between life and death. We should always be prepared to go into action.

Scripture Passage for Today

Show me the kindness of the Lord.—1 Sam. 20:14

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The fact that the Prime Minister failed to announce his reorganized Cabinet on his return from his fortnight of reflection at his lower St. Lawrence summer home is accepted in Federal circles as evidence that the government's sweeping election victory did not solve all its political problems.

In point of fact, the extent of the sweep simply intensified some of them. The staunch showing which the Liberal candidates made in the Toronto area, for example, strengthened that region's already air-tight claim upon Cabinet representation. In addition, the fact that no members of the Cabinet were casualties in the voting increased the problem of reshuffling portfolios, since it created no new vacancies for outside talent.

The difficulties which Mr. St. Laurent was facing were fully appreciated in Parliament Hill circles. But despite their magnitude the Prime Minister was expected to come back from his holidays with some formula of solution. His failure to do so is sparking widespread comment and speculation, no less in Liberal circles than amongst the opposition.

One report which is being widely accepted in Liberal circles is that the entire project of re-organization of the Ministry has been shelved for the present at least until the eve of the opening of Parliament in November. The resignation of George McIlwraith, West Ottawa Liberal MP, from his post of Par-

liamentary Assistant to Trade and Commerce Minister C. D. Howe is cited as confirmation of the rumor. Brilliant yet eminently sound McIlwraith is easily the most eligible MP for Cabinet appointment. The fact that he dropped out of the race after waiting so long for recognition is claimed to be due to his having learned privately that no changes are in the wind for the present.

McIlwraith's resignation as a Parliamentary Assistant points up a situation which better informed Parliament Hill correspondents have recognized for some time now. That situation consists in the fact that the present Liberal Cabinet has reached an age of service at which it is blocking the way to promotion of younger and able Liberal MPs. During no other Parliamentary decade has the rate of turn-over in any Cabinet been so low. For the Cabinet members such a situation probably has been most satisfactory, since it has meant the maximum of security and the minimum of problems of re-adjustment. But for the ambitious young Liberal MPs in the House it has meant frustration of the most vexatious kind.

When dissatisfaction in a party reaches the stage of open exclamation—as in the McIlwraith case—the usual tendency is for it to mushroom. Federal circles are watching the situation among the more able of the younger Liberal MPs with high interest and some suspense. Developments could be interesting.

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

One 20-Cent Tomato

WHEN we were up near the Rocky Mountains and doing our own holiday cooking, my wife bought one nice big tomato.

The price was twenty cents—for the single tomato!

We talked a lot about that twenty cent tomato next day in the Okanagan. For around Vernon there were some fair roadside bargains in tomatoes—four pounds for thirty-five cents. But at one stand I saw many tomatoes rotting on the ground. The disappointed farm wife, no doubt, had been unable to sell her crop at any price.

THERE IS something radically wrong with our deliberately bottle-necked distribution system in Canada, when you have to pay outrageous prices for a product only a few hours drive from the country where surpluses are allowed to rot.

On the same Okanagan weekend I heard of one peach grower who had decided to let the remaining crop rot on the trees because the cannery could accept no more peaches.

This is not written in criticism of the farmer, nor of the cannery—both of whom acted as you or I would act in their places—given the same circumstances.

But it is written as a reminder that our greatest, swiftly growing problem is still unfaced—and because it is unfaced—we have not yet begun to try to solve it.

SINCE THE invisible but very real Roosevelt revolution, Canada and the United States are both committed to the policy of guaranteed floor prices to farmers.

Canada right now owns vast stocks of unsold butter, bought by the government to keep the floor price above 58 cents to the farmer. We also own a huge stock of dried milk, a vast surplus of unsold canned pork. Recently our government also bought the whole unsold pack of last year's cheese—and the policy is to apply to 1953 cheese as well.

Moreover, while the nation does not itself own outright the wheat crop, it has a very real financial stake in the 1952 crop, which is still totally unsold and in storage, and also the new 1953 crop, now held on farms, for there is almost no other storage place for it.

ALL POLITICAL parties in Canada favor this procedure in principle—and the only criticism made of it in the 1953 election was that it did not go far enough.

Hence, we may take it for granted that such a policy, or something which even better serves the farmer interest, is going to remain in effect.

That is why I think we must face up to some very real decisions. I am all in favor of guaranteed prices for farmers—in fact I think the day will come, and ought to come, when everything the farmer produces or the fisherman catches, will be bought COD by the nation.

But it seems to me nothing less than sheer insanity—indeed a socially criminal act—to use the nation's tax money to buy up food, and then to hoard that food at a price some of the people cannot pay.

You can perhaps justify subsidizing buying of food for the people. But in my opinion you can never justify subsidizing a price-raising process which denies food to anybody who lacks food.

Admiral Robert Peary reached the north pole in 1909, and Roald Amundsen discovered the south pole in 1911.



DR. JAMES B. CONANT (right), U.S. High Commissioner for Germany, visits a food-distribution centre in Berlin, where thousands of East Germans are flocking to receive American food parcels at the rate of 70,000 daily. Communist treats against East Zone residents have not retarded the flow of persons risking punishment in order to obtain food.

VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—Mr. Speaker Thomas Irwin, MLA for Delta, has been delving deep into history so that he may know every facet of his important legislative position.

In the six months prior to the opening of the 24th Legislature he has done a tremendous amount of reading and there are few questions he can't answer about parliamentary procedure, origin of much of which is shrouded in the mists of time. Mr. Irwin says that nothing done in a Legislature is meaningless, though sometimes it might appear so to the public.

"The pageantry of Parliament," says Mr. Irwin, from his research and study, "is a monument to all those who have fought through the years for civil liberties." Mr. Irwin puts it this way: "One of the greatest battles of all history was fought without any individual heroes, but in that battle many lives were lost; it was a battle that lasted more than 900 years; it involved two civil wars; three kings were deposed, and one king lost his head. It was the battle of the British people for their freedom from absolute monarchy. The British people were far in the vanguard in pressing for and fighting for their liberties, but all western countries have followed their lead."

ONLY ONE WEAPON Mr. Irwin continues: "At the outset, the king was all-powerful, but he had one vulnerable spot, his necessity for money to administer his own and the affairs of the nation. The people had but one weapon—the money; they used this weapon constantly, gradually attaching one condition after another to their grants of money, resulting ultimately in democracy." The monarch is not allowed to enter the Commons chamber, save to open and prorogue Parliament. This custom carries right through to the provincial legislature; the lieutenant-governor cannot enter, except on opening and closing days of a legislative session, or when called by the legislature to give assent to bills. He could not wander into the public galleries and take a seat like an ordinary citizen.

Mr. Irwin tells us the origin of this: "In 1523, King Henry VIII, in need of money for his various wars, asked Parliament for 800,000 pounds. In order to compel this, he sent his all-powerful minister, Woolsey, who lived in a splendor and with a revenue greater than that of the king, to Parliament to impose the royal will. Woolsey appeared in Parliament to harangue the members in their duties to

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

She had a hip-hazard way of walking.—Richard Babcock.

The plain fact is that only the very poorest recipients of old age pensions receive anything like \$4.80 net. The rest of us get anything from \$300 down and the down may easily approach very close to zero. Even so there is a pleasant sensation in handling the monthly cheque.

About 48 cents of every tax dollar is going to defence. That's a whale of a big bill.

"For the life of me," said the cat, drawing his last breath, "I can't remember what I did with the other eight."

THAT GUARANTEE!

In business, comments the Financial Post, there can be no such thing as a guaranteed annual wage. Money is paid only so long as a business continues to be profitable. When its products and services cease to be attractive to consumers, the business will fold and all its workers from the office boy to the big boss himself must find other jobs.

The law of supply and demand has never operated very well with respect to money.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

B.C. FRUITS

Freight rates are making Winnipeg the most easterly point where British Columbia fruit can compete with Ontario and Quebec produce. This is not saying that the B.C. harvest will be light this year, but with the sterling market gone, sales must be discovered elsewhere. The prairies and western U.S., perhaps.

Canadians have never been famous for their fondness for fish, even if Canada's coasts

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING COMMON LOUNGE CIVIC CENTRE—8 p.m. Sept. 21, 1953

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ATTENTION BOWLERS

Seven more teams required for Friday Mixed Bowling and needed for Monday Men's League. Leave names at Alley after 7 p.m.



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