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Action on The PGE

REGARDLESS of what Ottawa may do, there is a strong possibility that the provincial government will regard the Peace River country and PGE as its best chance to make a name for itself constructively. There now appears to be no eagerness on the part of Canadian railways to acquire the government-owned line. B.C. must either interest U.S. or British capital in the road or take the plunge and greatly add to its own investment to tap the freight potential of the Peace River valley.

The PGE is on British Columbia's books for about \$143,000,000. This immense figure comes from capitalizing past liabilities arising through cost of carrying charges and operating deficits. It by no means indicates the value of the railway, in which actual capital invested is nearer to \$60,000,000.

But the PGE is no longer a butt for wise-cracking jokes. It has quietly and consistently improved its roadbed, bridges and rolling stock. Dieselization has increased power, cut costs, and reduced the handicap of the severe gradients at the lower end of the line.

The line has a terminus on tidewater at Squamish and conceivably could get by with that set-up for some years, much as the management would like to have terminal facilities in Vancouver. Far more important is the building of 270 miles of railroad to reach Dawson Creek or Fort St. John.

An interesting question now is whether or not there is available for the government to discover some imaginative railway builder of the breed of Van Horne, Hill, Mackenzie or Mann who would raise the necessary money to provide a missing railway link to North America's richest new development region.

Compared with the chance the CPR and CNR took in building through the "sea of mountains" from the Rockies to the coast with no settlers along the route and only a handful of pioneers at tidewater, the PGE project is remarkably attractive. The region is a compact Texas in itself, with coal, oil, natural gas, wheatland that has never failed to grow a crop, the largest acreage of untilled arable land remaining anywhere in North America, immense resources of softwood timber and some very great hydro-electric development opportunities.

Certainly B.C. will hear much about the PGE in the year ahead.

—B.C. NEWS LETTER

Scripture Passage for Today

"My help cometh even from the Lord."—Psalm 121:2

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

The first immigrant vessel to arrive in Canada in 1904 was the C.P.R. craft Beaverbrae, 9,000 tons, with 400 passengers at St. John, N.B. They boarded a special train to carry them across Canada to join deepdents. The latter have been in the west for some time. Wonder if many have been laid off.

A preacher says that by living properly one can live happily ever after. And we always heard it took two.

SHORTENING LIFE

More than 55 lives were lost between last Saturday and Monday in two air crashes. One was off the coast of northern Italy and the other off South American waters. We manage to travel by plane—and scores of these journeys belong to the one way type.

It seems that by the time anyone is old enough to wear over-shoes without complaining, he's too old to bend over and swear trying to wear them.

Wife, doing accounts: "We're going to have to tighten your belt."—The Week.

HOW SEA HELPS

Another name for sea food is sea weed, and this is beginning to be better understood down east. There, one of the various kinds of weed has been called dulse, and eaten and chewed as a sort of relish for many a year. Dulse is good for one's health. This gives you an idea. It is impregnated with iodine—and contains calcium, iron, copper, zinc, nickel, molybdenum, manganese, strontium, titanium and cadmium.

How far was the secrecy involved in the Igor Gouzenko in-

vestigation really necessary, unless for personal safety where communistic vengeance was concerned. And perhaps there was precious little of that. The quiz appears to be over and done with. It lasted but a day or so and there was small sign of excitement anywhere.

The Vancouver Sun, in a two-column box headline, January 8th, page 23, suggests that Prince Rupert turn off its tap. Well, Old Man, we'll gladly do so the moment it's possible. As for yourself, we know full particulars already. That is, you won't lose any time.

Many Old Grads

MONTREAL (CP)—McGill University's half-century club now has about 600 members who gained their degrees 50 years ago or more. The two veteran graduates are William Light-hall of Montreal and Dr. William McClure of Toronto, who won B.A. degrees in 1879.

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As I See It



by

Elmore
Philpott

McCarthyism

TIME magazine for Jan.

4 carries the neatest definition of McCarthyism that I have yet seen:

"Not for what he accomplished, but for the noise he made, Senator Joe McCarthy was the most discussed man of 1953. His name became an epithet to millions, a cheer to countless others. In 1953 McCarthyism crossed the 12-mile limit and became an international word, widely understood around the world to mean a cynical exploitation of genuine fears, a studied contempt for fair play, a cunning talent for concealing failures by loud baying for new victims."

IT SEEMS to me that, McCarthyism is a far more serious menace than even Time considers it to be.

The whole structure of English-speaking democracy was built up—layer upon layer—on the Magna Carta.

A wicked English king was forced to sign a document which said, among other things, "to none will we sell, to none will we deny, to none will we delay justice."

Down over the centuries, the principles of Magna Carta were applied, step by step, to class after class, and also transplanted overseas, to other countries.

The bedrock basis of our democracy was that no person could be arrested or persecuted for any act unless that person was given plain notification in writing of the offence with which he was charged; and given a full opportunity to defend himself, in open court—assisted by lawyers of his free choice.

American law was exactly the same as that of British law—from which it was derived.

MCCARTHYISM strikes at the bedrock foundation of the Magna Carta itself, but also, in the most subtle form, it subverts the U.S. Constitution.

The victims of McCarthyism are not summoned to appear in a regular court, to answer to charges which are plainly named. Rather, they are hailed before a tribunal which might be described as the bastard cross between the Inquisition of the Middle Ages and the circus of our own day.

The victims are not "tried" in court, but before a monstrosity known as a senatorial investigating committee, which flouts the U.S. Constitution by usurping the functions of the courts and conducting its proceedings in full view of a nation-wide TV and radio audience.

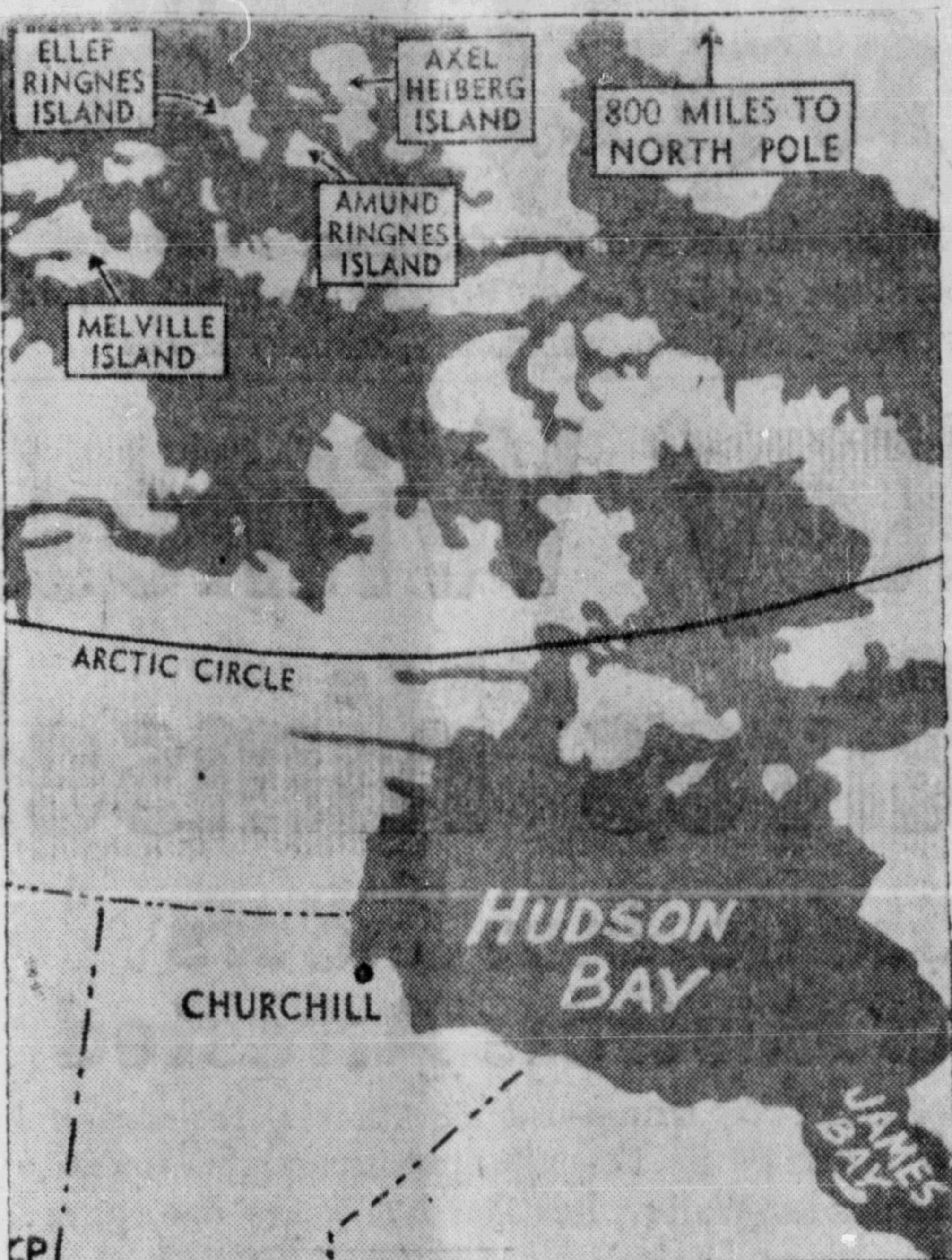
Under the McCarthy technique victims can be smeared beyond all possibility of recovery. McCarthy or any of his associates or aides may make any statement, no matter how unfair, untrue, or injurious to the victim. Yet, as the proceedings are all "privileged," nobody can take any legal action against McCarthy or his associates for anything said in those proceedings.

ONE of the McCarthyites called General George C. Marshall a "front for traitors."

As that foul lie was uttered under congressional "privilege" the great American and world figure could not have sued his lying detractors, nor had them arrested for criminal slander. Marshall, of course, was a big enough man to have the McCarthyite smear roll off him like water off a duck's back. But scores and hundreds of lesser Americans have lost their jobs, reputations because of equally unfounded McCarthyite allegations.

Long Career

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP)—H. F. Miller, district engineer with the federal public works department, retired after nearly 50 years with the department. He joined in 1907 and became district engineer here.



THIS MAP shows the group of islands in the Arctic archipelago where indications are oil may be found.

Discovery in Arctic Archipelago May Surpass Oil Wealth of Alberta

By DAVE MCINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Canadian government geologists have made a discovery only 800 miles from the North Pole which some day may surpass the oil wealth of Alberta.

The discovery comprises "salt domes" far north of the Arctic circle in a 40,000-square-mile area of the Arctic archipelago. Under the treeless stretch of tundra may lie one of the biggest reservoirs of oil in the world.

Officials here are excited about the find, made last summer after some peculiar rock formations showed on aerial photographs taken by the RCAF for Canada's map-makers.

CENTRE OF NORTH

The region covered by the discovery lies roughly 2,000 miles north of Winnipeg. It takes in the northern part of Melville Island, Ellef Ringnes Island, Amund Ringnes Island and the west coast of Axel Heiberg Island, all approximately in the centre of the Arctic archipelago.

George Dalgarno, Former Rupert Businessman, Dies

Word has been received here of the death in San Francisco, Calif., of George Dalgarno, former businessman of Prince Rupert.

Mr. Dalgarno at one time operated a contracting business here under the name of Dalgarno and Watts. He served in World War One and was a member of the Great War Veterans Association here as well as the Loyal Orange Lodge.

Besides his wife, Helen, a former matron of the Prince Rupert General Hospital, he is survived by a brother Ben in Victoria, two nieces in this city, Mrs. David Macphail and Mrs. Ralph Morin, and several relatives in Scotland.

Funeral service was held from the "Wee Kirk O' the Heather" in San Fernando.

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. Macle

Why is a section of the Progressive Conservative Party so evidently determined to block John Diefenbaker from the leadership at all costs—even at the cost of maintaining the now obviously unsuccessful leadership of Hon. George Drew?

That is the political question that is being asked most persistently in Parliament Hill circles these days.

Official P.C. circles have a ready enough answer. They say that Diefenbaker just isn't qualified for the leadership on either temperamental or physical grounds—but especially physical. A high-strung, taut, nervous individual, they argue that the strain and pressures of leadership are not for one of his type; and that his health would crack up under the burden. While arguing thus they admit freely and with crocodile tears that no one in the Party rivals him in prestige with the public or in ability to present issues in such a way as to capture the public imagination.

In most Federal political circles this theory that the stop-Diefenbaker bloc is motivated by solicitude for the brilliant Saskatchewan parliamentarian just isn't believed. The legend of uncertain Diefenbaker health is wholly of manufactured origin. No basis can be found for it in fact. Instead of being frail as commonly portrayed, Diefenbaker actually is a lean and wiry type. No man in public life has stood up to so strenuous a program of combined professional and political activity with so little physical wear and tear.

The general belief amongst impartial political observers is that the opposition to Diefenbaker amongst Tory die-hards is based not upon solicitude as much as on fear—the fear that if the Man from Saskatchewan should land in the party saddle the Men from Bay Street would have to give up their posts of influence within the party. That's something they obviously don't want to do. The evidence is that they would rather lose on the coaching lines with Drew, than win as privates in the rear rank with Diefenbaker.

Superficially, Diefenbaker undoubtedly is feared by some Tories as a dangerous radical. They are suspicious of his Western background with its low-tariff bias, by his dangerously vague crusade for human rights, and by his dislike of privilege in all forms.

But the fears of the party machine are more basic in character. They are the people who blocked Diefenbaker in the 1948 Ottawa convention and who have watchfully stood in his way at every opportunity. If he does get in, they are afraid they will go out. It would be natural and even inevitable sequence. They just don't want to happen.

LETTERBOX

MAKE THEM WELCOME
The Editor,

Re the letter in your issue of Jan. 11, Mr. Johnson should stop and do a little thinking about our new Canadians before he says too much and insults any more of these people.

Yes, look at the CNR line and its tracks. Long before all this came up 40 years ago would any of our own men take these jobs? Use a muck stick? No! Too hard. Who do they think we are, slaves?

Because our new Canadians do so, they are taking our jobs! I know of a big construction job nine miles from here where I worked myself for 18 months. I know from first hand knowledge that they brought dozens of men from Vancouver to work outside who stayed only two, three or maybe four days and quit. Every boat from the south would bring dozens of more men. But our new Canadians stayed, and because of that we should get mad? No, be a little fair. They have known hardships and are glad to be given a chance to earn a living.

They are also very thankful, which is a lot more than some of our own people. I visited a home here at Christmas time to see a family of new Canadians. The father had built the children a few toys and on each was placed, as he called it the Canadian flag, and he was happy.

He was as pleased as punch to

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by Dominion-Wide Corporation for new office to be opened on or about February 1st, 1954. Approximately 400 sq. ft. required, either one large room or two adjoining rooms located in the business section of town. Please address reply to Mr. Ford, 661 Richards Street, Vancouver 2, B.C., stating particulars as to site, location, rent, services provided and date available.

place the flag there and that he was in a new one. What must he think about letter?

As to firing bullets at us forget that we were firing back and with pretty suits don't you think? friend, if we are going men here at all let's make welcome and don't be as for me, my grand operated the first barber's Victoria and my father as myself, were born there. GEORGE H. P.

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OTTAWA, JANUARY 11, 1954.