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Expanding Barge Service

IMPORTANT as the northern B.C. line is to the CNR right now, there are signs that within the next year or two it will become considerably more so.

These are seen in reports from Haines, Alaska, that a barge service is expected to get underway soon between that point and Prince Rupert. According to the mayor of Haines, John J. Schnabel, there is a company planning to establish a warehouse and barge grid which will receive freight shipments from this port. Another firm is said to be arranging for shipments from the east which will proceed by barge from Prince Rupert to Haines and thence by truck to Fairbanks.

If the Haines highway can be kept open the year around, a third customer might be the Alaska Propane Gas Company. Now expanding its storage facilities at Haines, this company reports it could double its service to Fairbanks and Anchorage without additional cost if it could ship via the Prince Rupert-Haines route instead of making the long haul by truck from the source of its supply at Grande Prairie.

The Columbia Lumber Company at Juneau also is understood to be interested in taking space on a coastal barge service.

With operations between here and Ketchikan already on the books, these opportunities for additional business make the CNR's prospects in this part of the country brighter than ever. It is possible, of course, that the winter condition of the Haines highway could hold things up since much of the potential traffic depends on this route into the interior being open throughout the year. So far Ottawa has been cold on the subject despite reported offers by interested parties to undertake the work themselves.

Having had first-hand examples of the force of Donald Gordon's decisions, however, we anticipate this attitude will change if returns for the railway show sufficient promise. Don't count Prince Rupert out of the big picture yet.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

The fact of the matter is that our kids are growing soft in body because we, their parents, are growing soft in the head observes a Wisconsin contemporary.

ONLY BACK IN 1907

Early days in the life of the Prince Rupert Empire appear in the Vancouver Sun April 3, 1907, the description being written

by P. W. Luce. The dominant figure, however, is John Houston whom the GTP heartily disliked. The Empire's price list included: "Nails, with a few crooked ones, 5 cents; Fresh air, best on earth, free on application; rain water, best in B.C., free. Bread, baked by mother of three legitimate children, 10 cents a loaf. No bed, unless one can be borrowed from a friend."

About the only time we can think without embarrassment of the expression "only the good die young" is when we buy chicken.

At all man's babbling about sex, Mother Nature laughs and laughs and laughs—knowing full well she has the last and virtually the only important word in the matter.

We are entitled to have decent weather in April and with April commencing two weeks earlier, the weatherman will know what he is expected to deliver. Or else!

It's a wise enough act to breathe through the nose. For one thing it keeps the mouth closed.

New ears made of rubber are being gradually developed. Exactly the same material could be made use of in the production of the human neck.

Unemployed in Canada, have been told to hustle out and get jobs: that there are plenty waiting for them. This may be true to a certain extent but in many cases a man is only capable of one type of work.

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As I See It



by
Elmore Philbott

Dead Baby Chicks

A DEAR old friend who was a nursing sister in the First World War has written me an anguished letter. It is about a horrible Easter custom which has just sprung up, and which she says, should be killed forever by the disapproval of a kindly Canadian people.

It is the hideous practice of selling stuffed dead but real baby chicks and ducklings. I agree with my dear old friend that this is a brutalizing act.

"I stood in front of a drug store," she writes, "with my heart sick and sad at the horrible sight. A young couple came up and stood beside me. One said to the other:

"Why, they are real — but stuffed." The other answered: "Why they can't be, they would never let them do such a cruel thing."

MY DEAR old nursing sister friend says, "I realize that the harm has been done for this year. But surely we should never let such a monstrous thing happen again. If commercial interests can hatch out baby chicks for no other reason than to be killed and stuffed, then what is to stop them from killing and stuffing puppies, kittens, bunnies and everything else."

"We teach our children to be kind to each other and to all pets and animals. Yet we would condone the monstrous act of giving them, as a toy, a little chick which had actually been killed to make a plaything."

I FEEL just the same way as does my friend about this.

Easter is the happiest season of all the year to me. I never could go along with any very narrow and rigid religion and I confess that I feel personally just as much at home with Sikhs, or Hindus, or Moslems as I do with the folks who call themselves "Christians."

But if Easter means anything at all, it means that life triumphed over death, and the king of kindness rose triumphant over the power politicians of his day.

There is nothing that our Lord taught so clearly as that Our Father in heaven cares for every living creature here on earth—that not a single sparrow falls to earth without causing pain to the Creator, and that every single hair of every human being is numbered, as a precious living thing.

IF CHRISTIANITY means anything it means that God loves the baby chicks, the baby bunnies, the baby bears, and all the other babies of every species, in all creation.

The Great Teacher himself taught of a coming day when no living creature would hurt or kill any other living creature in all the earth. Somehow, we don't seem to be moving too fast in that direction in these times. But perhaps a generation hell bent to wipe itself out with H bombs, N bombs or Z bombs, is too callous to give a second thought to dead, stuffed, real baby chicks.

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REFRESHMENT time, and Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister of Ceylon, guzzles the milk of a big coconut as he makes a week-end visit to one of his estates. Sir John will preside over the Asia Prime Ministers' conference in Colombo, Ceylon, in April.

LETTERBOX

SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

The Editor, The Daily News:

In view of the publicity given to statements criticizing the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, it would seem appropriate to state that this Association does not share the views held by the Fishermen's Union on this subject. We join with Canada's leading fisheries administrators and scientists in supporting this worthwhile effort in international conservation.

It is significant to note that these press reports do not reflect the attitude of James Cameron, a member of the union executive board and one of the four Canadian commissioners. Mr. Cameron, an experienced fisherman who is extremely well informed about the principles and objectives of this new international body, is the Canadian representative on the commission's important biology and research committee.

One of the chief points made by the Union is that Japan is "invading" the waters of the North Pacific, catching salmon destined for Alaska and B.C. streams and thus causing a decline in this northern fishery.

These statements cannot be supported by the fact. They can, however, create misunderstanding and jeopardize the work of the commission.

Japan is not "invading" the North Pacific. In the first place these are international waters of the high seas and open to exploitation by any country. In actual fact, Japan is operating in an area west of the 175th meridian, well over half way across the Pacific. Had Japan not signed the fisheries treaty, her fishermen could have operated anywhere in the Pacific up to the three mile limit off Alaska and B.C. In accepting membership in the commission she has voluntarily restrained from fishing east of the 175th meridian, the median line accepted by the three countries as the provisional line separating salmon of North American origin from those originating in Asia.

Contrary to statements made by the union, no one knows for sure where the salmon caught by the Japanese are spawned. Finding the answer to this question will be one of the first tasks of the biological research committee.

How Christian Science Heals
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO TURN TO GOD"
KTKN, 557 St. Saturday, 10:15 a.m.

tee. However, a glance at the map would suggest that most of these salmon originate in Russian rivers. Dr. J. L. Kask, chairman of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada and an expert on Japanese fisheries, is reported as stating last October that "The Japanese catches are believed to be Siberian salmon."

It can not be proven that the decline in the Alaska fisheries has been caused by Japanese high seas operations. This decline has been going on for 30 years, the most serious drop in catch occurring in 1933. Mr. Sinclair, in his recent address to the Fishermen's Union, pointed out that many American officials seem to agree that it has been brought about by a combination of over-fishing and ineffective scientific management. All available evidence would appear to confirm this view.

The alternative proposals recommended by the Union for the protection of our fisheries either give less protection than that provided by the Commission, or are impracticable. The proposal most frequently put forward is that the Japanese catch in the Pacific should be limited to five million fish. When it is realized that these salmon are caught on the high seas, thousands of miles from our shore, the impracticability of such a suggestion becomes obvious. Even if the imposition of such a quota system were possible, the precedent thus established could do serious damage to Canadian fishermen in other areas.

Under the provisions of the International North Pacific Fisheries commission, west coast fishermen are assured complete protection of salmon, halibut, and herring from exploitation by Japan for a minimum of five years and almost certainly for the ten-year duration of the

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. M.

When the government replies to a question that has been placed upon the House of Commons order paper, no debate is permitted at the time. The M.P. simply receives the information for which he asked. If he wants to make use of it, he has to wait for some appropriate occasion to which the information is relevant.

These somewhat complicated rules of the House explain why nothing was said the other day when Citizenship Minister Walter Harris told Allister Stewart (CCF, North Winnipeg) that Canadian Citizenship has been granted to three French nationalists convicted of collaboration with the Germans during World War II—and is being considered for a fourth.

The topic is an explosive one in government circles, and Cabinet Ministers aren't at all happy about the Stewart questions for lifting the lid which previously had been clamped tightly on it. The North Winnipeg M.P. asked if the government knew if any French collaborationists had been given asylum in Canada, if any of them had applied for Canadian citizenship, and if their requests had been granted. The reply of Citizenship Minister Harris was that the government knew of five such individuals who had been given asylum, that four of them had applied since for Canadian citizenship, and that three of the applications had been granted.

The reply raised the obvious further questions—not yet asked but inevitable—as to why five individuals who had been branded as traitors to France in the days of the battle of the underground for freedom, should be considered entitled to asylum in Canada, let alone the further shield of protection of Canadian citizenship?

For all five Frenchmen had been tried by the French courts in absentia—they had fled the country when the occupation ended—and had been convicted of collaboration and sentenced to death.

That was when they turned up in Canada. They shrewdly threw themselves upon the good offices of some Quebec nationalist organizations. Their story was simple: The French courts before which they had been convicted had been Communist and anti-Roman Catholic. They had fled them not because of guilt, but because of the knowledge

that they couldn't hope for justice. The weak point in the government's role in giving them asylum is the fact that in no other respect has it implied that the French Government was Communist-dominated. In fact, its whole NATO policy has been built on the assumption that France is a bulwark against Communism. How then is it going to justify sheltering these fugitives from French justice? Because they're going to have to justify it before the session is over.

DIABETIC THREAT
Diabetic sufferers are usually between 40 and 60 years old, and overweight, when symptoms first appear.

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