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Action Needed on Power

WHAT is the situation concerning negotiations for Prince Rupert power, if any?

A letter to the editor on Saturday correctly remarked that almost a year has passed since the B.C. Power Commission was invited to become supplier here. Meanwhile apparently nothing at all has happened.

With the Northern B.C. Power Company's franchise due to expire at the end of March, this puts everyone concerned in a very uncertain and unsatisfactory position. Before the Commission can take over, there are such matters to be settled as purchase of existing facilities and creation of a local power district which certainly may be expected to take a fair amount of time.

Even if preparations started right away, it would seem almost impossible at this late date to meet the deadline. Evidently, then, the present supplier will be obliged to continue on a tentative basis without any idea of what is to happen next.

This kind of treatment is not only unbusiness-like. It is also unethical. In addition, it imposes a handicap on the whole city since no plans for power development can be made until the situation is clarified.

Prince Rupert has a right to expect a great deal more interest and action on the part of the Commission. That body should be asked to advise at once what it proposes to do.

Burns of Scotland

TODAY Scots the world over commemorate the birth of one who gave unique and imperishable expression to the spirit of their race. Literally drawing inspiration from his country's very soil, farmer Robert Burns within the brief space of 12 years established himself as a poet whose name is written indelibly in the history of Scotland.

Like many men of exceptional brilliance, Burns had an unhappy life. In a letter to a friend, he confessed that he longed for the end. It came soon enough, for he was only 37 when death finally climaxed a long period of penury and poor health. But unlike many others of outstanding talent who died at an early age, Burns had the satisfaction of knowing his work was successful. In fact, he was lionized to such an extent that his personal life became the subject of open criticism.

Since then, however, reports of his dissipation and decadence have been proved largely inaccurate. It is now said of him that he was not so much conspicuously sinful as that he sinned conspicuously.

All that, however, has no bearing on the priceless contribution that Burns made to his beloved Scotland. Tonight, in appreciation, Burns Clubs everywhere will pipe in the haggis and raise a toast to his enduring memory.

Lest auld acquaintance be forgot . . .

LETTERBOX

SUPPORT THE POLICE

The Editor,
The Daily News:
As our city has grown in the past few years we are developing many movements and institutions in which we can take pride.

These include our new schools, civic Centre, our housing project, tennis courts, curling rink, the "Little League" and Alaska Music Trail to mention only a few. These in themselves help to attract worthwhile citizens and aid in favorable consideration for new industries as the north continues to grow.

But we grow much less attractive if events prove that the law enforcement agency here cannot obtain the support of City Council in the fight against bootlegging.

Surely part of the punishment a convicted bootlegger must expect is the permanent loss of his taxi licence. Not only has he abused the trust placed in him when the RCMP issued his licence but he has exploited the weakness of those who feel that they must have a bottle at any price.

Has any thought been given of the consequences to this city of such traffic? Thousands of dollars are diverted from productive use, intoxication with all its problems increases and respect for law and order decreases.

The would-be honest taxi driver has no protection against this unfair competition, heavily subsidized by this illegal trade and either quits in disgust or is

driven into bootlegging himself. Thus, if the city council does not support the RCMP they are, in my opinion, definitely encouraging the criminal element in our city.

The carrying of passengers for hire on our narrow and increasingly crowded streets is a grave responsibility and should only be entrusted to persons of proven integrity and judgment—and this doesn't include convicted bootleggers.

L. M. GREENE, M.D.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Uncle Sam's New Line

IT SEEMS to me that the drastic change which is now taking place in U.S. world strategy will inevitably be followed by an equally drastic change in Canada's defense set-up.

The U.S.A. is now adopting the Radford policy, where the main dependence is to be upon American air and sea power, kept as mobile as possible. This means of course that the U.S.A. will "disengage" as quickly as possible as many as possible of her own troops now pinned down in such places as Korea, Trieste and Germany.

In other words in the middle of the twentieth century the U.S.A. is applying, on a larger scale, and in two elements instead of one, Britain's traditional doctrine of sea power.

IT IS interesting to note by what steps the Americans have arrived at their new position.

For the past two centuries, or even more, the Americans were what the Chinese called them around 1900 "second chop Englishmen." The United States was able to come into being, to grow and to reach unparalleled prosperity because British sea power maintained a certain world stability. Stated in another way—there never would have been an American, English-speaking U.S.A. at all had the Spanish Armada conquered England, which was then a brash, third class power. The U.S.A. came into being in the first place only because the English world power had beaten the French world power in the war which reached its climax at Quebec.

The subsequent revolutionary war between the American colonists and the reactionary King George III gave rise to one of the longest, and bitterest family quarrels in history.

But all the American top statesmen always realized—and the whole American nation felt in its bones, by instinct, that a powerful "England" was the real first line of defense for the U.S.A.

That great fact of history stood forth, in its naked truth, first in the Kaiser's war and even more in Hitler's. The overwhelming majority of Americans would have liked to stay out of both wars. But the most fundamental fact of life for the U.S.A. was that she simply could not afford to see Britain beaten in either of the world wars. For, as I wrote over and over again in this space before the U.S.A. came into the Hitler war "a world from which Britain had disappeared as a first class power would be a very uncomfortable place for the U.S.A."

THE END of the Second world war saw Britain bled white. It was impossible for Britain to maintain the strategic spots which had so long been the keys to her application of sea power.

Thanks to General George C. Marshall, and his superior, President Harry Truman, the Americans stepped into Greece and Turkey when British power was being pulled out.

What had happened, almost without anybody realizing what was happening, was that the British and American positions had simply been reversed. Instead of Britain being in the front line of a world balance of power which protected U.S.A., the U.S.A. was now out in the front line—with Britain and the whole Commonwealth, including Canada—dependent on the U.S.A. as its chief protector.

We have to fit our own plans into those of our big partner.

Dramatic Clashes Seem Inevitable at Meeting Of Foreign Ministers Opening in Berlin Today

By PRESTON GROVER

BERLIN (AP)—So different are the personalities of the four foreign ministers who begin today to discuss the world's crucial issues that dramatic clashes seem inevitable.

The two oldest and toughest, American John Foster Dulles and Russian Vyacheslav Molotov, represent the biggest powers. The others, Anthony Eden of Britain and Georges Bidault of France, are both in their 50s.

Here is how they look on the conference's opening day.

MOLOTOV: There probably is no harder and colder personality in the U.S.S.R. than Molotov. He comes to the conference near his 64th birthday March 9.

Unlike the other three, who have developed a certain warmth and acceptance of one another, Molotov hasn't a friendly contact in the Western camp.

Molotov, well grounded in Communist theory, never loses sight of the long view of Communist policy.

DULLES: The secretary of state, who may celebrate his 66th birthday at the conference table Feb. 25, has been on the fringes or in the middle of U.S. foreign affairs for a score of years. A Republican, he was at the elbow of various secretaries of state and worked out the peace treaty with Japan.

His recent statement that the United States would have to

make an "agonizing re-appraisal" of its policy in Europe if France fails to ratify the European Army pact stirred up a ruckus in France.

He wants to see Russia back within its own frontiers and especially out of central Europe.

EDEN: The foreign secretary is looked upon as formidable at the conference table, firm and forthright. What he may lack in give and take, Eden makes up in a rich background of international experience, dating back to the League of Nations.

He wants to avoid an abrupt collapse of the negotiations. He favors removing the barrier be-

tween East and West by working out agreements on small things if larger scale operations are impossible.

BIDAULT: Favoring ratification of the European Army pact, Bidault comes to the conference table bolstered only by a thin and uncertain majority in Parliament and with no great assurance that he will be foreign minister more than a month after the conference ends.

He is learned in history, once was a history professor in Paris, and worked his way to the leadership of the "resistance" in France during the German occupation.

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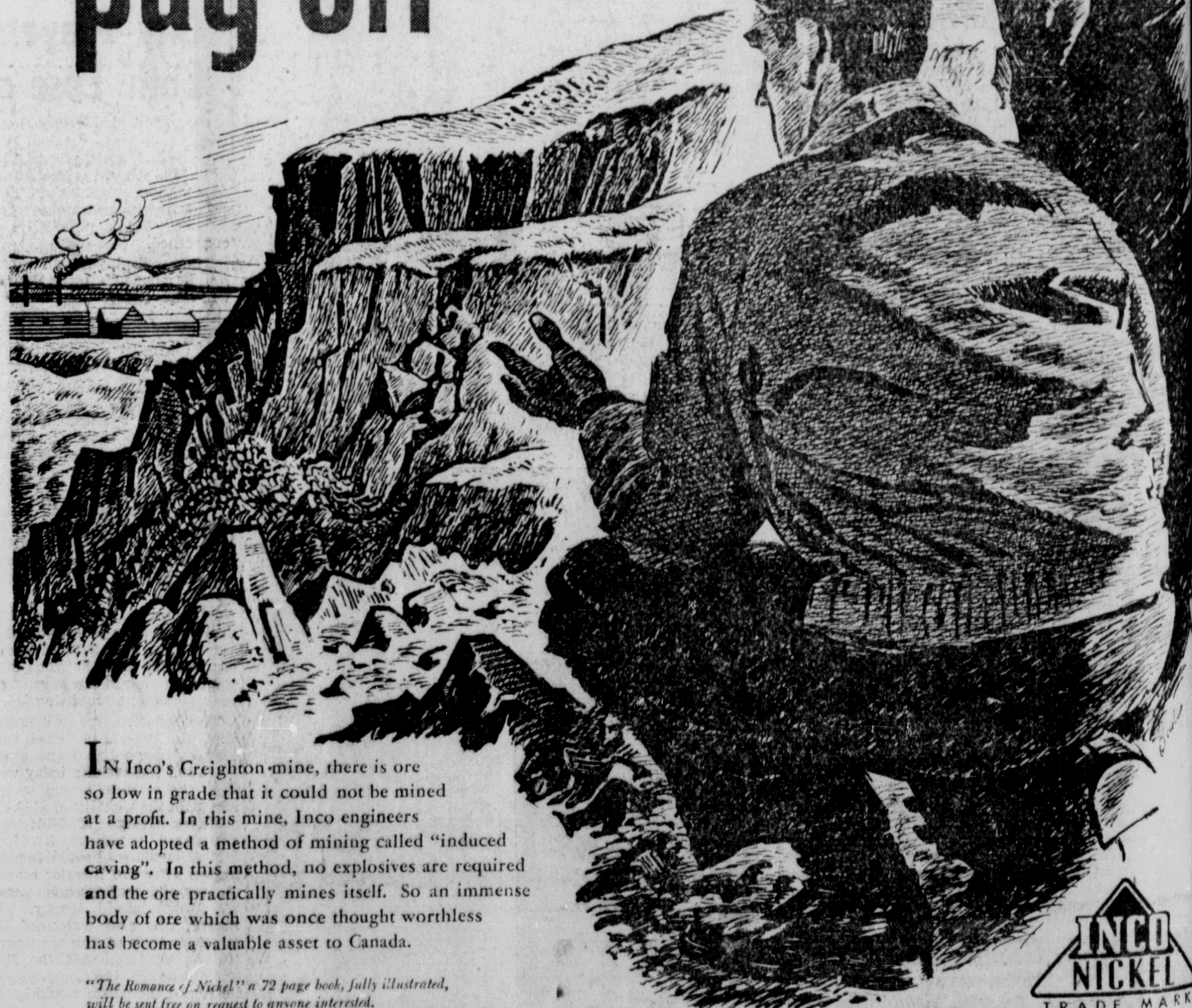
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What's news at Inco*?

Inco makes worthless ore pay off



IN Inco's Creighton mine, there is ore so low in grade that it could not be mined at a profit. In this mine, Inco engineers have adopted a method of mining called "induced caving". In this method, no explosives are required and the ore practically mines itself. So an immense body of ore which was once thought worthless has become a valuable asset to Canada.

*The Romance of Nickel is a 72 page book, fully illustrated, will be sent free on request to anyone interested.

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