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Prevent a Catastrophe

A VERY grave situation is in a ripe stage of development in the Prince Rupert trading area and unless some major move is made immediately, a lot of hardship will be thrust on an innocent group of people who just want to make a living.

A strike has been called and if some 1,000 fishermen native to the Naas and Skeena river areas cannot start fishing when the season opens June 22 midnight, each of those fishermen is likely to lose the best part of his livelihood for the year.

This situation appears to have come about by lack of consideration for a minority group by the powerful United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union. But there is still time to make the move that will ward off this threat of a calamity. This move should be made NOW.

The union strike deadline has been set for June 22—the day when the sockeye season begins on the Naas and Skeena. These two rivers are two of four or five biggest runs of sockeye on the Canadian West Coast—and the earliest.

The mighty run up the Fraser River doesn't actually get under way until the middle of July, although the season there opens July 1. At Smith's and Rivers Inlet, heavy fishing begins about the end of the first week in July.

But such is not the situation in the north. Each day the fisherman is prevented from fishing the Naas and Skeena runs after June 22, a big slice of his year's income has headed up river, for it is the early run which is already gathering near the river mouths that migrates up the northern rivers.

A week or 10 days of idleness of a northern fisherman—and his chances of making any kind of a comeback are gone.

Cannot we visualize what it will mean when 1,000 people in our area will be cut off from their annual income? The effect economically will be severe enough, but the individuals themselves and their families will either go hungry or eke out a meagre existence on relief.

We must also realize that when there is no fishing, canneries do not operate which means the loss of more employment to a large number of people who depend on cannery work for their livelihood.

There is much to be said for both sides of the price dispute, but as both sides have agreed to at least one aspect of the price problem, we urge both operators and fishermen to get that point settled immediately.

Operators are offering last year's price on sockeye—25 cents a pound.

Fishermen here agree to last year's price on sockeye, but also want last year's prices on other species of fish.

It appears to us only common sense and perhaps the only move that can be made now to avert a catastrophe—if the fishermen will accept the sockeye offer, call off the strike, and negotiate for the other fish prices while sockeye is being fished.

In this way, the plight of a quarter of the gill net fishermen on the B.C. coast might be saved.

Another Look

IN THE over-all picture, the key consideration in this strike facing the fishing industry should be the loss of market for B.C. salmon not only in the United Kingdom, but in Australia, South Africa and all other sterling countries.

This situation is made still more grave by the fact that B.C. warehouses already have the biggest carryover of canned salmon in 20 years, as was stated in a news item in yesterday's edition of the News.

To top it all off, domestic consumption is being maintained chiefly by dint of a costly advertising program.

Decreasing demand for our salmon appears largely due to the price of raw fish preventing it from competing with other foodstuffs. At the same time, fishermen anticipating a small catch this year, are anxious to protect themselves through better prices.

Their position in this respect is understandable, but a careful look at the discouraging foreign market and full warehouses will be more useful now than after a strike has started.

VALUABLE WOOD
Ecuador on the Pacific Coast of South America is the world's main source of balsa wood, lighter than cork.

SMALLEST OF FIVE
Lake Ontario is the smallest of the Great Lakes, with 7,540 square miles compared to 9,940 for Lake Erie.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Who Stole That Kilt?

NOT LONG ago I read these intriguing words in an article by Lyn Harrington in the Vancouver Sun:

The mortality amongst Indian folk songs is hastened by the fact that the songs are clan property. "A man would no more think of singing his neighbor's songs without permission than I would think of robbing my neighbor's clothes-line," she said.

Last year over in Scotland I learned that some of the fierce old highlanders feel that way about their tartans too.

JUST BEFORE the British election day Gilbert MacAllister MP, took a day off from his electioneering to take me for a drive through the Scottish highlands. He drove around for me in a big sedan. With him were his old father, his sister and his pet English secretary, by name Biddy.

It was raining Vancouver style, as I came out of the Glasgow house to get in the car and my hosts with one accord began to apologise for the "atrocious weather." They would not believe me when I said "this is exactly what it would be like if I were home on the Pacific coast today."

I thought Biddy was bare-legged and said to her: "You should have stockings on a cold day like this." She replied she did have them on—and to my surprise, when she turned around and I saw the little tabs on her heels, I realized that she really was wearing sheer nylons, and was not bare-legged after all!

BUT BIDDY, who had never been to Scotland before, was wearing a kilt of which she was inordinately proud. I forgot what particular tartan it was. But imagine the young lady's consternation and chagrin when a fierce highlander demanded to know by what right she was wearing HIS clan tartan.

"You would not dream of using another person's calling card would you?" he demanded to know. "Then by what right do you wear a tartan that does not belong to you?"

I must add that there is no unanimity in Scotland about this. Not only will the merchants of Glasgow and Edinburgh gladly make up skirts for women, kilts or even tartan trousers for men. They will gladly sell you a tartan cape for your pup.

MANY of us read the cables from Aberdeen recently which told how the municipal council there had indignantly voted down an offer from a U.S. girls pipe band. It was bad enough having the American lassies come to Scotland playing the bagpipes, wearing tartan kilts. But they actually wanted to charge Scots a considerable fee for doing so! Talk about carrying coals to Newcastle.

GILBERT MACALLISTER thinks it is a shame that there is no memorial to mark the birthplace (Continued on page 8)

THE LETTERBOX

SEEKS TO PROMOTE JAYCEES IN TERRACE
The Editor,
The Daily News,
Your story of May 15, special to the Daily News, and reporting on the first Future Citizens Day at Terrace, was of special interest to us. As the citizens of Prince Rupert well know, this is an annual project of the Prince Rupert Junior Chamber of Commerce and has always been an outstanding success here. In addition we have our "Get Out The Vote," "Street Signs," "Paint Up Clean Up," campaigns, etc., that are all of benefit to this community and its citizens as a whole.

What is not so well known, however, is that this branch has for some time been interested in forming a branch of the Junior Chamber at Terrace, but we have always lacked a nucleus of young men there to spearhead the organization.

If the junior citizens at Terrace, or those organizations which sponsored this first Future Citizens Day there, were able to assist us in formation of a Junior Chamber in the centre, it would virtually assure them of the continuation of many worthy community projects.

G. NEELY MOORE,
President,
Prince Rupert Junior Chamber of Commerce

VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—The utter confusion of the election's first count shouldn't surprise anyone. Such confusion was bound to happen, with four parties and 212 candidates in the running for 48 legislative seats.

Now, of course, it all depends on second and third choices. Or were there many second and third choices? We won't know for some weeks.

The alternative system of voting was brought in in an effort to sort out the very confusion we're now in. Without the alternative system, the CCF would be in power today—on a minority vote. It may still get the largest number of seats—though it's this observer's opinion that the Liberals will come out on top.

It's no wonder that CCF chieftain Harold Winch says that if he forms a government he'll wipe out the alternative system of voting. Of course he will—for without it he'd be in power now.

One wonders why there was such a tremendous vote against Liberals and Conservatives. Together, in recent years, these parties gave this province good government. Why was there such a protest? It must have been because the public had the idea the two parties were playing politics—were more interested in politics than in the public's business. There's much truth to that idea. The public got sore at all the political hanky-panky going on in Victoria the last year or so, and let Liberals and Conservatives know, in no uncertain manner.

It's all very well to be wise after the event, but there's no doubt that Premier Johnson committed a first-class political blunder by calling the election at this time. He could, and should have carried on for another year or so. He said he had no mandate, but he had a House majority, and the CCF and the Conservatives would not have voted against progressive legislation.

CCF chieftain Winch has said that time and time again. But the Premier got stubborn, insisted on the election, wouldn't listen to Attorney-General Wismer, who would have put it off for a year.

It seems impossible to believe we'll not have Mr. Anscomb back in the House. But he can hardly get enough second and third choices to put him in over Liberal P. A. Gibbs. The Oak Bay result is one of the big surprises of the first count—though Liberals were positive they could at long last oust the Conservative chief.

Mr. Anscomb, after being Reeve

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FINE CARPET
KARACHI (CP) — Mohammed Sultan, a Kashmiri refugee from Srinagar, has been working alone for 18 months on a carpet of 3½ feet and expects to finish it in three more years. Sultan's carpet has 2,400 "knots" to the square inch, believed the finest ever attempted.

FALSE ALARM
BRIDLINGTON, England (CP) — An ambulance that was summoned when a woman was reported drowning off the Yorkshire shore became stuck in the sands, while the woman was reported safe. The lifeboat crew manned a tractor to release the ambulance.

DOORWAY LURE
LONDON (CP) — A Londoner wants to stop couples from false addresses so they married in churches that not in their own district. He couples who think only of wedding photographs flood the church with an imp doorway.

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