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**Public Parks Are Free**

THE Prince Rupert Rotary Club has completed another project of public service of which they can well be proud and for which they deserve recognition.

After many years of being without one, the city is to have a tennis court. All that needs to be done now is the hard-topping, which is being paid for by Rotarians. City public works will do the job.

The tennis court has been built on park property, another step in the right direction in which we are making good, sensible use of park lands.

But we hope the parks board will go easy on a proposal to have the tennis court operated on a "paying proposition," with players restricted to the membership of a tennis club.

After all, the courts are on park property, have been donated to the public by the generosity of a public service club for the benefit of the public.

Can the public be rightfully charged admission to their own parks or restricted from its benefits?

We do not believe the tennis courts should be operated on a basis which will restrict the general public. There may be those who only play tennis occasionally—would find little time to belong to a club but would welcome the opportunity of a game with a visiting friend or as a means of occasional relaxation.

When a facility belongs to the public, the public should be free to its use.

Report From . . .

**Parliament Hill**

By Edward T. Applewhaite, M.P., Skeena

Many people, particularly those living on the West Coast, will be interested in the "Japanese Fishing Treaty" now before the Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries. Appearing before that Committee on May 6, Council Manager Gordon O'Brien tabled the resolution from the annual meeting in which the Fisheries Council of Canada "endorses the content of the said Tripartite Agreement without qualification and recommends its ratification by parliament."

At the meeting on May 6, Deputy Minister Bates gave a detailed review of the considerations which led to the drafting of this fisheries agreement in its present form. He referred to the necessity of adopting principles which we would be willing to have applied against us; he said that principles had to be found to satisfy these conditions.

While this draft treaty is based on the grounds that our Pacific fish—or the more valuable of them—are fully used now and our own fishermen are restricted it had to be made a little more specific than that and it is stated in three parts covering (a) maximum exploitation; (b) conservation; (c) scientific study. There are not a great many fisheries in the world meeting those principles.

The House of Commons passed the resolution to extend the life of the Consumer Credit (Temporary Provisions) Act in a matter of minutes but it has been before the Senate for several days. Senator Farris of B.C. sponsored the resolution in the Senate.

This Act, which it is proposed be extended, was passed in 1950. It gives the government authority to restrict consumer credit. It was enacted with a limitation as to its duration, expiring (un-

less renewed) on July 31, this year.

Senator Roebuck asked whether the extension of the Act is for the purpose of preventing a further fall in the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar, or whether it is to give the government priority in obtaining goods for manufacture which are needed for defence purposes.

Senator Farris said that he supposed it was for any purpose which, in the light of the object for which this measure was enacted, the government may think justified. Senator Roebuck suggested it might be used for any other purposes, to which Senator Farris agreed.

Senator Tom Reid of New Westminster said he did not suppose that any law has ever been placed on the statute books in which some one has not tried to find a loophole, and cited evasions of regulations in the past. Assuming that Senator Reid was asking a question, Senator Farris said he was sure that, when occasion arises to renew the Act, the Minister would greatly appreciate having his attention called to this matter.

Prime Minister St. Laurent spoke very nicely about the Dominion Drama Festival in the House recently. He said that consideration has been given to the matter of making a reasonably generous grant to the Festival, but it has been found it is not a matter that can be

(Continued on page 3)

**As I See It**



by Elmon Philpott

**Need New Truce Team?**

CANADA'S protest to U.S.A. about sending our troops to Koje overshadows something more important.

Unless Britain and Canada quickly exert their influence to retrieve an earlier and worse U.S. blunder we could find ourselves in a large scale bottomless pit war in Asia.

The real crux of the trouble on Koje was the U.S. "screening" of war prisoners. Saturday Night sums it up tersely when it says:

"The prisoners were screened in dubious circumstances which no outside authority could supervise . . . The least the UN powers can now do is to admit a further screening under an authority of unquestionable objectivity."

MONTHS ago Canada pointed out to U.S.A. that there was nothing in the Geneva Convention to legalize what U.S.A. was proposing to do in Korea about war prisoners. Although neither Russia nor U.S.A. has ratified that convention all nations theoretically at least accept it as a guide to "civilized action."

Canada did not give German prisoners the choice of staying here or going back home. Indeed, in one case (which I wrote about in this column) our RCMP hunted down a lone escapee. He had held down a dozen jobs across Canada and was working well as a farm hand in B.C. But still he went back to his own land. So did thousands of Germans from Britain, who asked to stay, especially because they were working freely on farms and many had British sweethearts.

Of course in most cases the question of persecution did not arise. The British government tried and hanged Lord Haw Haw and John Amery. The Russians instantly shot thousands of Soviet nationals who had been coerced or coaxed into serving in Hitler's armies. But no one raised the question which has been raised in Korea: Do war prisoners have the right to choose to go home or not go home?

REGARDLESS of who is to blame, or how we got in the mess we are in, no prisoner should be turned over to his own Communist government if that will mean that he will be persecuted, tortured, or put to death. Geneva Convention or no Geneva Convention, common

sense and common humanity should prevail.

Even if we have to break off the truce talks altogether, and simply hold the line in Korea by whatever amount of force is necessary, that would be better than to betray prisoners who are sincerely on the UN side.

Also, even if it is true—indeed, especially if it is true—that the U.S. authorities used illegal pressure methods to get these men to identify themselves as anti-Communists, they are now doubly entitled to protection.

But the real need on Koje—and the real need in the whole Korean truce talks—is to take them out of the hands of the U.S.A. military monopoly.

INSTEAD of sending British and Canadian troops to Koje to help redeem the fiasco there would be more point in sending in a new UN team of truce talkers to try for peace in Korea.

With all respect to soldiers, they are darn poor peacemakers anywhere. Moreover, of all the UN soldiers now engaged in Korea the U.S. generals seem the worst fitted psychologically to get a truce.

Maybe nobody on our side could get a truce with the Communists in Korea. Maybe we have to fight it out, willy-nilly. But at least some new faces would do no harm. I would like to see the UN send out some tried-and-tested successful civilian conciliator like Anthony Eden or our own Lester Pearson.

**Whopping Skeeter**

WEYBURN, Sask. (C) — Constable Jim Ballantyne of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Yellowknife, N.W.T., mailed a sample of northern mosquitoes to his friends here. The skeeter's measurement was three-quarters of an inch long with a wing span of more than an inch.

**ray . . .**

**Reflects and Reminisces**

Small wonder people are flocking to Canada! Three gold bricks worth \$80,000, sent from British Columbia to Sudbury (Ont.) disappeared from the railway station platform of the latter city. The mail sack the gold was in didn't even have a guard.

Burning of an ancient frame building in Toronto a few weeks ago, keeps recalling a lot of crackerjack, if old though true yarns. The building, in 1896, was a railway station and generations later a marketing warehouse. One June morning, a young newspaperman, J. Ross Robertson, founder of the Toronto Telegram, was seeking live news and wandered into the station. Little did he dream he was on the eve of scoring the biggest scoop yet recorded in Canada.

**PRIZE SCOOP**

A telegraph operator (friendly soul) tipped him off that Fenians were just crossing the Niagara River from Buffalo to Fort Erie which was confirmed

Next moment, sworn to secrecy, Ross was racing toward the office, where forms were about to go to press. "Wait!" shouted Robertson, "Canada is invaded." Much of Toronto refused to believe the news. Citizens burst in to call Ross a liar. The two other papers scoffed at the story. There was no telephone service and the government, controlling all telegraphs, refused to talk.

A fad has been described as an opinion not, as a rule much respected. Or could you call it something that goes in one era and out the other.

Eighty are graduating this month at the Kingston Military Academy. They will become commissioned officers. And incidentally Mr. Chaxton is turning out things to fight with worth three billion, five hundred million.

**MERELY ANOTHER**

It's comparatively seldom, the body of a fish, found on this coast, is the cause of uncertainty. Sometimes though the non-commercial species gives rise to more or less speculation, and this of course, is always of interest, even if it has nothing to do with the alleged ogopogo. Not long ago what had been a good sized denizen of the deep was seen near Nanaimo. Its length was around fifty feet and at first there was no certainty as

(Continued on page 3)

**Mountain View Resort**

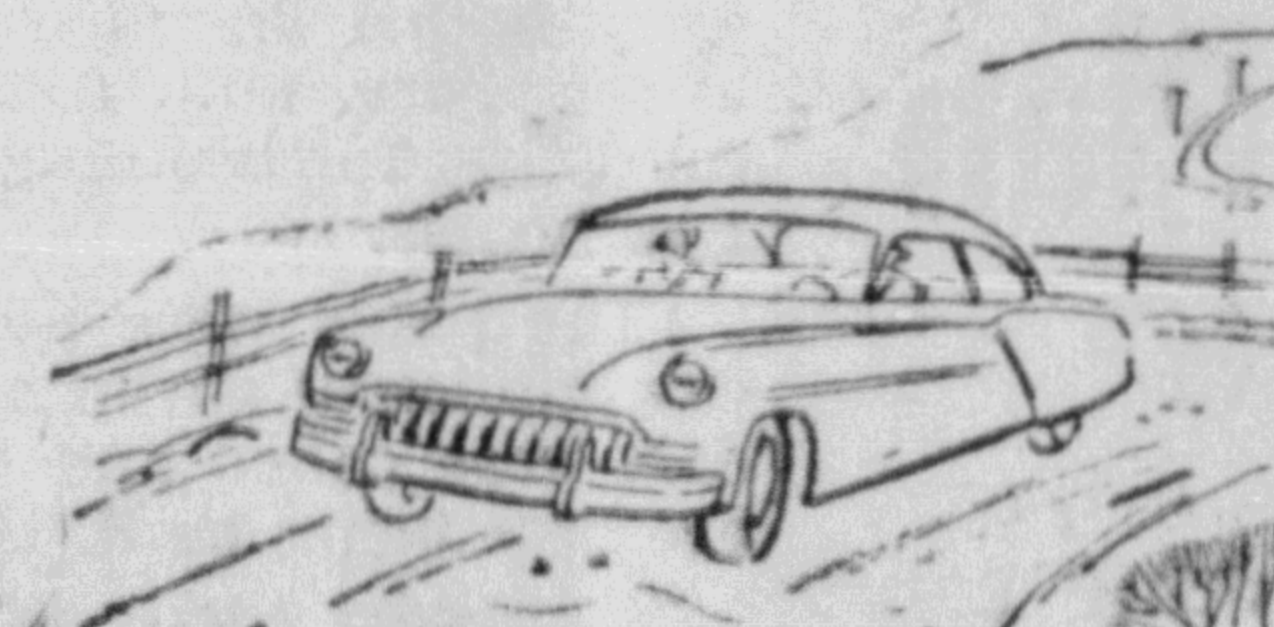
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