

## Park Wreckers

ONE item of upkeep which has caused Prince Rupert a considerable amount of thought and expense is its parks. In a city with many essential projects needing attention, parks present a constant problem. They cannot be ignored, yet they contribute nothing to the physical operation of the city. By strict definition, they are a luxury and a seasonal one at that.

To its great credit, Prince Rupert takes the broad view that parks are vital to community well-being and maintains them on a scale which allows a certain amount of improvement each year. It is a program which involves some sacrifice in other directions, but most are willing to accept that. Any community which cannot afford to make a concession to the pleasure of its children — and its grown-ups, too — is indeed a poor place in spirit as well as in pocket.

Unfortunately, however, the meaning of all this is lost upon some of those who benefit most. The determination of the parks board to improve McClymont Park is equalled by the determination of others to destroy it. A rock wall under construction there is being conscientiously wrecked by nightly assailants. Rocks put into it one day are pried loose by the next. Efforts to paint the swimming-pool are handicapped by the debris hurled into it. This includes the remnants of much needed benches, and rocks from that new wall.

To get this material into the pool, the wreckers have cut holes in the tough wire screening that surrounds it. The strength required for this suggests the vandals are old enough to have sense as well as muscle, but the vicious stupidity of it indicates that the muscle is also in the head.

The situation is discouraging not only to those officially responsible for Prince Rupert's parks but also to individual organizations which have voluntarily contributed to their improvement. While eliminating the mischief entirely may not be easy, there is certainly a great deal that can be done by parents.

Without doubt, much of the damage is done by boys young enough to be led into any exciting prank. Part of the answer is to get these youngsters home on time at night, and the rest is to put them straight on their ideas about having fun. Perhaps a place in one of the organized baseball leagues would do it.

The older ones beyond the control of parents are the responsibility of the police. There is no reason why the summer pleasure of hundreds of children should be in the hands of a few knuckle-headed louts.

## OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Parliament at long last is stepping up its working tempo with morning sittings. That's the certain annual portent that the end of this long but generally dull and not overly fruitful session isn't too far off.

Most MPs were frankly relieved to see the end-of-the-session signal. For some of them were becoming uneasy. They weren't too sure that the government was planning prorogation in time to allow a decent interval to elapse before the opening of next autumn's session. The government seemed too suspiciously indifferent to the past many weeks to the pace of Parliament to have any specific date in mind for its close.

Ordinarily, the commencement of morning sittings portends about another month of suddenly strenuous labors. Legislation is rushed through feverishly, without too much debate on its details. Estimates, instead of being placed under the microscope as their vast present-day scale deserves, are likely to be passed almost in bulk. Committee investigations are choked off and wound up, even although their results may have been only inconclusive.

Most MPs agree, regardless of political party, that this system of dealing with Parliamentary business in a last-minute rush is highly unsatisfactory. It is recognized that important public interests suffer under it. After weeks of slow motion during which time appears to have little or no real value, Parliament suddenly becomes caught up in a madly rushing current in which time seems to count for everything, while the importance of the business in hand becomes secondary.

The situation points clearly to the need for some regulator of

Parliamentary business which would function evenly from the start of the session. But the need for such a reform has been obvious for so many years that some of Parliament's cynics despair of it ever being introduced. More optimistic souls believe, however, that sheer logic of necessity some day will compel some government to take action. Some close observers believe that already House Speaker Rene Beaudin is making a contribution towards a solution which will increase in effectiveness with each passing session. Ever since he took office last autumn, Hon. Mr. Beaudin has been trying to enforce the rule of relevancy in all House debates. That is something that no previous House Speaker has ever attempted systematically, although the rules of the House specifically provide for it. The result is an important saving of time, which will increase as the MPs increasingly accept Hon. Mr. Beaudin's purpose and co-operate in carrying it out.

## CM & S Mine Facing Strike

NELSON, B.C. (CP)—Some 270 men will walk off their jobs at the Bluebell Mine at Riondel June 16 if an agreement between the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. and the Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (Ind) is not reached.

The strike date was set at a meeting at Riondel Tuesday night. Previously, a government-supervised vote supported strike action by 244-10.

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## As I See It



by  
Elmore  
Philboott

### Riddle of Our Time

TWO ITEMS in the same issue of the same newspaper point up the great riddle of our time.

"There is now less probability of a major war in the near future than there has been for the past several years." So says Dr. N. A. M. MacKenzie, president of UBC.

At the same moment, Admiral Robert B. Carney was telling a New York audience "He was not predicting that a holocaust would come tomorrow but he was convinced that tomorrow can come far sooner than may be realized or sooner than we are ready to face up to." So reported the New York Times.

It is only a few weeks ago since leaders like Admiral Carney were in favor of an all-out allied air strike against the attackers at Dien Bien Phu. There is no reason whatsoever to believe that they have changed their reasoning.

It is too soon yet to accept, as final, Dr. MacKenzie's optimistic estimate.

The world is very close to war because the Americans have the decisive voice in the western alliance, and because certain key Americans in high places favor drastic intervention in Asia, even at the cost of bringing on a general war.

From the point of view of allied unity, the greatest danger in the thinking of American admirals is that they confuse two types of war.

There is general agreement among the governments and the peoples of the free democracies that international military aggression must be resisted.

If the Russian armies sweep west from that iron curtain, or if the armies of Red China invade neighboring countries, then we are all solemnly pledged to go to war to repel such attacks. But we are not pledged to go to war to try to bring up dying colonial regimes, in Indo-China or any place else.

The terrible danger in the American admirals' reasoning is that it fails to think through the necessity in the countries engaged in civil wars.

Admiral Carney told his audience that there are "political and/or military" ways to organize resistance. He was realistic enough to declare that the decision for intervention must include "the whole-hearted consent" of the populations involved.

But what the American admirals have so far refused to see is that the only way to secure the "whole-hearted consent" of the populations involved is by granting complete freedom to the local countries, as such freedom was granted in India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia.

THE CONFUSION in the American thinking is a confusion which could lead to the greatest disaster in history.

It is possible to line up the whole "free world," behind a collective defence system which will make future military aggression by the Communist world power impossible. But it is not possible to line up the "free world," behind any hypocritical policy of warmongering imperialism, disguised under a flimsy mask of internationalism.

There is a way, and only one way, to stop further Communist "inside job" conquest of the countries of Asia.

That is, for the mature democracies of the West to enter into a true partnership with the new democracies of Asia, to transform the remaining colonial areas into genuine democracies.

Even Prime Minister Nehru now recognizes that western partnership for such purposes will be necessary in the transition period.

OSLO (CP)—The National Council of Norwegian Women which represents 400,000 members has condemned beauty contests. The council said such contests are a "degradation" of womanhood.



ULYSSES AND THE SIRENS—by Robert W. Chambers in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald. (CP Photo)

## VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—Governor-General Vincent Massey, speaking in Dawson Creek the other day, said that more Canadian history should be taught in the schools of Canada.

If this was done, His Excellency said, young people leaving our schools would have what he called both knowledge and a feeling "for the stirring achievements which have served to create the country we live in."

Certainly, B.C. boys and girls should be taught more B.C. history.

Our history isn't dull—it is, as the Governor-General says, filled with stirring events.

In my limited experience talking of our history I have found young people interested in it. The way to interest them is to tell them of people, rather than of events. They like to hear of colorful characters. Once they become interested in the men and women who have gone before, who worked and fought for this province, the young people want to know what it was they did—and so history is taught, and made entertaining and fascinating at the same time.

How it was that British Columbia was turned from Colonial status into a province of Canada is a case in point.

John T. Saywell, brilliant scholar, son of a Cowichan high school principal, UBC and Harvard graduate, at 25, told B.C. Historical Association something of this stirring phase in the history of B.C. Mr. Saywell dealt mostly with the part one man played in the launching of the Canadian Province of British Columbia.

That man was our first Lieutenant-Governor, Joseph W. Trutch. He was appointed to his high office before there was any provincial government here. Prime Minister Macdonald of Canada told Trutch to pick a man suitable for the premiership of British Columbia.

Trutch's eye fell upon John Foster McCreight, an Irish barrister. Trutch appointed him attorney-general and proceeded to groom him for the premier's office.

Soon came the first election in B.C. after Confederation. Mr. Saywell said that Trutch used his influence to have McCreight elected, and, when he was Trutch made him B.C.'s first premier in 1871.

Trutch was a little uneasy as to the result of the first elections.

He wrote to Macdonald: "I think I can manage to get some decent men to take a hand in the government, although most of our representatives will be queer little cattle, I fear."

Promptly McCreight and Trutch became embroiled in fierce controversy, particularly in Victoria where the editors of the two daily papers, both M.L.A.'s, had, Mr. Saywell said, "desired a place in the sun."

Mr. Saywell said: "These men, Amor de Cosmos of The Stand-

ard, and John Robson of The British Colonist, were probably the strongest political figures of the time, largely as a result of their instruments of propaganda and influence—the first cabinet was, on the whole, extremely weak, and there was some truth in Robson's assertion that "the present ministers will be cobwebs for the next House to sweep away."

However, despite the bickering in Victoria, Macdonald, in Ottawa, was pleased with the new set-up in B.C. He wrote to Trutch: "The Province of British Columbia may now be considered as fairly launched, with a responsible crew on board; so that, hereafter, the duties of lieutenant-governor will be rather of a sinecure character."

Trutch, after setting up the first government, soon became bored with the lieutenant-governorship. The office, he wrote, is "becoming and acceptable to one of advanced years, but tedious and irksome to one at my time of life."

De Cosmos and Robson meanwhile were keeping up their attacks on the McCreight government. After a year in office, McCreight was defeated in the Legislature. Trutch called on de Cosmos to form a new government.

Saywell sums up this history-making chapter in the story of British Columbia: "This incident (Trutch calling on de Cosmos) may be taken as the final step in the convincing proof that the transition to responsible government had been made."

"The lieutenant-governor willingly accepted the defeat of the government he had appointed—and had felt very kind toward; he accepted as premier a man for whom he had little use, whom he had opposed bitterly for a good many years, and who had so recently scurrilously attacked him in the press."

"This, at a time when it would have been an easy matter to assist McCreight in a cabinet reconstruction—an easier matter, actually, than the formation of a new administration."

### Bia Telescope

CAPETOWN (CP)—A survey team of European astronomers is expected here this year to choose a site for the first major telescope in the southern hemisphere. The project is a 120-inch instrument, second in size only to the 200-inch telescope at Mount Palomar in California.

## PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

HEAR

ARTHUR LAING

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TONIGHT 8 p.m.

EVERYBODY WELCOME

## Report From PARLIAMENT

By E. J. Applin  
(MP for Skeena)

Tenders have been called for the work of reconstruction or rehabilitation or whatever you like to call it which is to be done this year on the former Provincial fishermen's floats at Cow Bay. The Deputy Minister of Public Works advises me that as soon as the tenders are in, the contract will be let, and every effort made to expedite it.

I have now received the details of the dredging to be done at Dodge Cove. Two areas are to be dredged. Area "A" is the entrance to the harbor, and the area to be dredged is some 1100 feet long by 100 feet wide and is to be dredged to five feet below low water level or to rock. Area "B" is the basin around the public wharf and floats. This is an area of no regular shape, which is about 500 feet long and varies from 200 to 500 feet in width; and is to be dredged to five feet below low water level. The contractor will have six months from notification of acceptance of tender, to complete the work.

Two years ago the Associated Boards of Trade of Central B.C. passed a resolution addressed to the Provincial government pointing out that many specifications called for the use of fir which is not native to much of our district whereas native timber was often as efficient for the purpose. Recently at the instance of Masset operators, I have made representations along similar lines to the federal authorities. The engineering branch of the Dominion Department of Public Works has been instructed to investigate my claims and I am hopeful that this may lead to a greater use of our local product—but only when this can be done without loss of efficiency and satisfactory construction.

The Department of Public Works is going to replace the float at Skidegate Wharf with a new one which will measure 12 feet by 100 feet. This will be nearly twice as long as the present float.

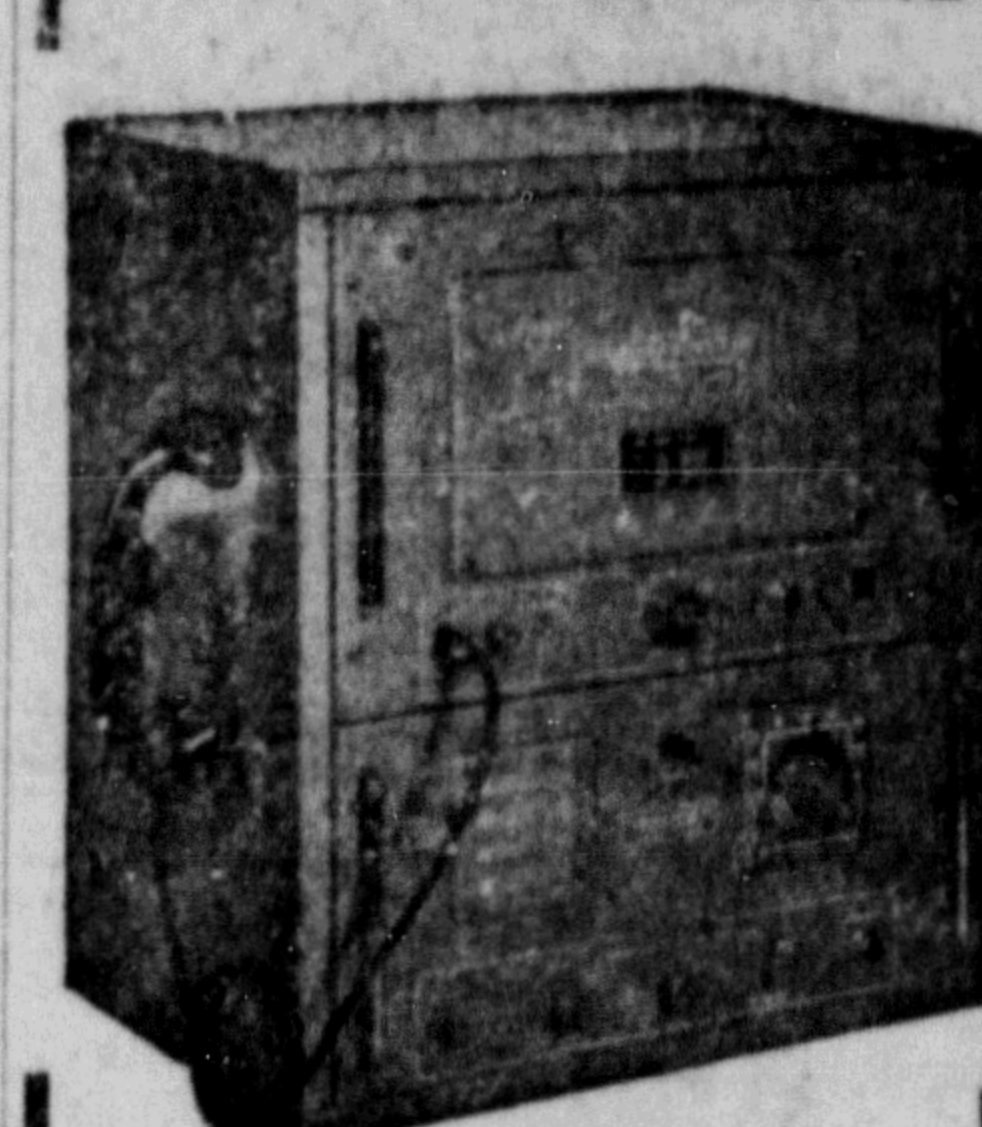
In the middle 30's, when the Hitler-Mussolini combination was bringing with it the menacing shadow of war, one school of writers on international politics developed the habit of referring to the assemblage of the democracies in opposition to the Axis as the muster of the "peace-loving" Powers; now Soviet Russia claims to be the only real advocate of peace. You will remember that at the Berlin conference M. Molotov reserved the full force of his invective for what he called the criminal division of Europe into two camps, while refusing to be drawn about the Atlantic alliance as such. Later, as a "peace-loving" nation, Russia suggested that she join NATO, and the governments of the West will have to consider very seriously what was presumably intended as a serious proposal, so it is necessary to consider this proposal in all its aspects. The Russian note began with a flourish of trumpets about the peace policy of the Soviet Union as expounded at meetings of the United Nations, with specific reference to the general reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic weapons together with other forms of mass destruction so as to liberate atomic energy for pacific purposes. As a rank amateur on the sidelines, but seeing what is going on, it appears to me that our—the West's—greatest challenge ahead is in the field of diplomacy.

Efforts are being made now to speed up the session so as to get away by the end of June. We have been sitting till 11 o'clock at night and starting Monday, May 31, the House sat from 11

a.m. to 1, from 2:30 to 6, and from 8 to 10 with no free evening on Wednesdays. We worked all day May 24 as on any other week day.

The Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-Op. sent me a large shipment of smoked "Alaska" black cod. I sent some 50 pounds of its up to the Parliamentary restaurant where it received many glowing compliments, and I have distributed the rest individually mostly to unfortunates whose homes are on the prairies or in Central Canada and who are seldom

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