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As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Laing—People's Choice

ARTHUR LAING'S overwhelming victory in the B.C. Liberal convention is in the truest sense of the word a triumph for the rank-and-file.

Laing, the people's choice, is what we used to call, back in Ontario, a "Clear Grit." This term is pure Canadian. It comes from the pioneer days when the miller and his millstones were household words.

LAING has the quality of standing solid as the rock of Gibraltar, when he makes up his mind.

From the beginning he made up his mind that Coalition was bad for B.C. and doubly bad for the Liberal party. He stood like a rock against it all through the years when softer characters condoned it.

Social Credit came sweeping over from Alberta into the B.C. vacuum of which Laing warned. But it is typical of the man that never once did he later say "I told you so."

From the minute that the Liberal party was beaten last June with two percent fewer first choice votes than the Sobreds, Laing held that the Liberals could come back.

But he believed there would be no point in their coming back unless they came up from the grassroots—unless the Liberals in the constituencies knew that they picked the leader, to apply their policies—which came from and had to be kept close to themselves.

It is no secret that Laing was feared and opposed by certain manipulators in the Liberal party. They were against Laing precisely because they were well aware that the overwhelming majority in the ridings associations were for him.

It is worth noting that Laing's key words in accepting the leadership were:

"Get on your lists every person with a Liberal mind and bring in labor. Show them we are the party for them. Get your feet on the ground and your heads in the air."

ART LAING long puzzled and finally exasperated his own supporters by refusing to say whether or not he would stand. But he was no Hamlet.

Far from being a sign of weakness or vacillation this attitude, I figure, was striking proof of the dogged determination of the man. He had made up his mind from the beginning that he would only accept the leadership of the Liberals in B.C. if that leadership were eagerly offered him by a substantially unanimous party—speaking up from the grass roots to the top.

In the end the entire party was openly, almost desperately anxious for the Clear Grit to take the reins. It was only then that Laing said "yes."

FIVE MONTHS before the election last year I wrote in this column on January 11, 1952:

"Arthur Laing is one of the sounder, more liberal men in the B.C. Liberal party. In the event that Premier Johnson clings too long to the Coalition millstone that is dragging B.C. Liberalism toward election doom, Arthur Laing would be an excellent man to lead a revitalized, re-liberalized party. I think such a man could lead the Liberals to victory in B.C."

I still think the second part of that could come true this year, as the first part so unfortunately did last June.

VALUABLE GIFT SYDNEY, N.S. (CP)—Dr. Howard S. Ross of Montreal, native of Sydney, has presented the Cape Breton regional library with more than 900 books to be divided among county libraries. The gift was in memory of his wife and parents.



"CHEESE IT! THE COPS"—By Charles A. Grassick in Toronto Telegram.

LETTERBOX

WORLD PEACE

Editor,

The Daily News—Today, with Russia extending an "oak leaf" to the world as a token of peace, all eyes are turned to that little peninsula of Korea.

If one were to look at a map of Russia prior to 1939, one might ask the question: In a country of so many millions of square miles without an all-India round port, what steps would the people take to get the necessary outlets, to build up a means of exit for the winter months?

The answer is now obvious in the fact that with China and Korea under control the situation in the east is taken care of. In the west they have always had Murmansk and after the last war many more ports on the Baltic Sea.

The south is next! For years now Britain has had a hard time to keep the seven creases in her sailors' pants. It looks today as if the Mediterranean crease will have to be eliminated and we'll see our sailors going around with only six.

Disraeli had the foresight to see the importance of a shortcut to the Far East, and England today, through no fault of her own, is being hard pushed to keep control of possessions which she has maintained for centuries.

We have seen Iran close down Britain's largest oil fields; we have seen dissension in Egypt which end is not yet finalized, and the Sudan will be taking a vote on which way to turn.

All these countries border on the Suez Canal and it is all very clear that a "squeeze play" is being forced upon England.

It hasn't stopped there. In the far south of Africa we have trouble from the Mau Mau, which has already caused international concern.

Should these great waterways be denied the western countries, free access to the Far East by the European countries would be impossible unless all-year-round ports on both sides of Europe were held, and today Russia and Russia only has that advantage.

The situation in Korea is far from settled and must be handled with kid gloves.

This interdiction which the world is enjoying today may possibly be compared to an epidemic—a disease, checked in one area, only to break out more dangerously in another.

World peace will not be at-

GOOD LEADERS WANTED

Editor, Daily News:

As I am a native myself, I feel I have a perfect right to ask Mr. Sinclair what he means by "good sound well-experienced leaders. The kind that would bow their heads when negotiating an agreement with the companies? Well if he wants that, we will be back where we started from at 10c for white springs and 35c for red. Is that what he means by men who understand the fishing situation—35c a piece for sockeye?"

I suppose he can explain to us how he got the words "enjoy the benefits," when 25 years ago 90 per cent of the fishermen were going in the hole and the other 10 just clear. In fact we don't have to go back that far.

I think we should resolve that the former Brotherhood executive be removed immediately before they ruin the fishing prices altogether. We want somebody in there with a little backbone and ones who will always let us vote the democratic way—the secret ballot.

I do not think any union should have men who bow their heads in agreement with everything the big companies have to say or do.

ANONYMOUS.

tained by the signing of an armistice in Korea. We must look to the United Nations to prove to the world that the old proverb, "The pen is mightier than the sword," is not only true but is also the foundation for world peace.

—J.D.S.

NOT INTERESTED

Editor, Daily News:

There has been a great deal of talk recently about war, peace and democracy.

But just how much democracy in action can we boast about here in Prince Rupert? Having attended many of our council meetings in which the gallery consisted of perhaps two to a dozen interested citizens out of a population of 10,000, I reluctantly came to the conclusion that Prince Rupert citizens are not interested in democracy.

From conversations with other people it appears that there is a great influx of wage earners and others who came to Prince Rupert for the sole purpose of making a stake, contributing as little as possible to the welfare of the community and leaving town with as much as possible for themselves.

This is not democracy. A democratic citizen of Canada enjoys his citizenship rights on every square inch of Canadian soil, but to enjoy the privileges of a citizen he must accept the duties of citizenship. And one of the duties of citizenship is to contribute his labor, money and moral integrity to the well being of the community in which he lives.

One way to find out how many community-spirited citizens are living in Prince Rupert would be by sponsoring voluntary community projects in which everyone can participate. A project such as clearing and landscaping certain areas in Prince Rupert would soon bring to light the number of citizens who believe in living the democratic way of life.

As a recent editorial pointed out the communists invade democracy through "the sewers of civilization." And it is just through citizens failing to do their God-appointed duties in respect to public morals, beauty and health that these sewers remain open.

Before we preach let us practise.

You are the light of the world. So your light is to shine before men that they may see the good you do and glorify your Father in heaven.—Matt: 5:16.

EDWARD W. GREEN.

INCOME TAX QUIZ

Q May I deduct union dues from my wages for the year?

A Annual dues paid to a trade union are deductible from salary and wages earned in 1952. The Unions have been requested to supply their members with certificates for this purpose. Be sure you attach this certificate to your income tax return. Trade union dues used for the following purposes are not deductible:

- 1. Dues paid towards a super-annuation fund or plan (unless the fund or plan has been approved by the Taxation Division);
2. Dues paid towards a fund or plan for annuities, insurance or similar benefits; and
3. Dues paid for any purpose not directly related to the ordinary expenses of the union.

Q I have heard there is a special basis for taxing dividends from taxable Canadian corporations. Could you explain how this works?

A In its simplest application it works as follows: The full dividends received from taxable Canadian corporations in 1952 are included in income, and the resulting total tax is established. The tax is then reduced by a credit of 10 per cent of the amount of the dividends. If the total tax payable before the dividend credit is less than the amount of the dividend credit, there is no tax to pay. However, there would be no refund of any unused portion of the credit.

Tribesmen of New Guinea, the large island north of Australia, value the flesh of the python as food.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINIS

Art Evans of Beach Place saw a gopher last Friday. The stranger from Alberta was sitting up, handy to Mr. Evans' home, trying to figure out which was brightest—the sunshine of Prince Rupert, or pellucid skies of the prairie provinces. Having dwelt there for 20 years, Art knows one when he beholds it.

But this was genuine. And how in the name of Number One Hard did it ever get here? Was one ever seen so far from his native heath? Never! It's true wheat comes this way but not gophers. Or perhaps in a car of grain it rolled secretly hidden down the Skeena River, and once free of the car scuttled across the tracks to find himself in Beach Place. Unless gorged with grain, it should have an appetite by now.

ANYWAY, OFFSPRINGS AWARDED Mrs. Blank was granted a divorce when she told the judge that since their marriage her husband had spoken to her only three times. She was awarded the custody of their three children.—News and Views.

The creeping up of old age began the day you were born. So cheer up. You probably will not die of it. How old is old. Folks sixty and seventy think of themselves as middle-aged, says Dr. E. W. Burgess, outgoing president of the Gerontological Society. Old people are dependable workers, less likely to lose time because of illness. Hence, cheer up.

Every female dearly loves to take care of a house until she gets to be all of six or seven.

There are nine in President Eisenhower's cabinet, eight millionaires and one plumber. Which leads a contemporary in Ontario to suggest that the correct order of precedence should be one plumber and eight millionaires. We know, however, that last winter was devilishly cold back east and plumbers could not be expected to work for nothing.

Japan's Crown Prince spent the week-end on the British Columbia coast, en route to London for the coronation. May this be but one of future visits.

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Parliamentary circles are being moved to wonder these days if there can be no such things as a happy medium in Canadian-Japanese relations.

The reflection is prompted by the circular which the Department of External Affairs has just issued laying down the respectful conduct regulations to which Canadians in the Capital must conform when His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akihito visits here next Sunday and Monday.

In sharp contrast to the government policy a few years ago of killing off as many Japanese as possible in World War II, the heir to the Japanese throne during his two-day stay here is to receive kid-glove treatment such as no other celebrity has ever been given.

Here are just a few of the rules

Plenty of Oil For All Needs, Says Premier

BANFF, Alta. (CP)—Premier Manning of Alberta said here that within a few years Canada will be producing enough oil to meet all its needs.

He told the second annual oil-well drilling safety clinic that the chief problem of the petroleum industry is markets.

While pipelines, either completed or building, would increase the market, Alberta would have supplies in excess of markets for many years to come, he said.

which individuals at the various functions which have been scheduled must obey:

No one, except the official party attending His Imperial Highness, shall approach closer than 12 feet to the royal person. If Prince Akihito should walk towards any individual or group, the person or persons he is approaching must retire in order to maintain the 12-foot distance.

No one must address His Imperial Highness without having been spoken to by him first.

Even authorized persons must not cross the route of the official procession either immediately before or after it has passed, or while it is in progress.

Press and television photographers who will be given a brief opportunity to photograph His Highness must not suggest any pose that they would like him to take.

Notwithstanding any privileges which any individual may hold by official status at any of the functions, he shall comply promptly with any order given him by any major-domo of the official party or by any police official.

These regulations are a good deal more explicit than any that were ever spelled out in these parts for any visiting celebrities or royalty, including Their British Majesties on their 1939 tour or Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands during her several visits here.

The official explanation is that the government is responsible for the security of the Crown Prince, who to his Japanese subjects is a god-like figure.

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Provincial Election Pending

Those already on the voters list will receive Post Card notification that they are registered.

Announcement will be made at a later date regarding dates and location of registration centres for convenience of those not registered as Provincial Voters.

NO GENERAL HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

Watch your paper for an announcement by the Registrar of Voters in your district.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA