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What This Day Means to Us

(By JIM BATEMAN, Grade 12, Booth Memorial High School)

FUTURE Citizen's Day is an annual event in Prince Rupert in which the senior students of our high school have an opportunity to set aside their books for the day and are briefly able to face civic and business responsibilities that will be theirs in later years.

Yet some may ask—why have a Future Citizen's Day? The answer may be found in the reception given to this project in former years, as well as the enthusiasm displayed on the part of the students this year. They were only too eager to apply for the various positions which were available so that they could explore the many different aspects of life in which they will ultimately take part.

The majority of the students go through high school with only a vague idea of what they will do after completing their studies. Thus they are confronted with a difficult problem, that of making the choice which will affect their entire life.

The school is mainly interested in developing the student's character traits mentally and physically, so that he will have a favorable background and be sufficiently adjusted to further his studies, or get a job upon graduation and do it well. But the task of the student is to select the academic field in which he is most interested and gets the best marks, specialize in those subjects and eventually make it a profession.

Some help is rendered for this purpose by the teacher-councillors, and the Effective Living Courses are mainly directed to this aim. But the decision is the outcome of much deliberation and thought. The tragedy is that for many the outcome does not materialize. Isn't it only fair that all the assistance possible should be given to the student to familiarize himself and learn to shoulder the responsibilities which will be his, and to guard against disillusionment if a mistake should be made?

It is our belief that our Future Citizens can look forward to a prosperous tomorrow, as competition is becoming keener and scientific knowledge is progressing beyond limits. We will work hard to become eminent citizens, as Prince Rupert will only be as good as its citizens make it.

Scripture Passage for Today

"A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."
—Isa. 53:3.

Slowdown in Canadian Production Will Be Righted in 1954—Abbott

OTTAWA—Finance Minister Abbott Tuesday night predicted a slowdown in Canada's economic surge will be righted this year, and he said he does not think drastic government action is needed to step up the pace.

In his budget speech to the Commons, he said the record national production of 1953 should at least be equalled, with an upswing late in the year more than compensating for current declines in some industries.

Meanwhile, he expressed a government reluctance to boost tariffs for the protection of Canadian industry now and to embark on public works for short-term relief of unemployment.

"I do not feel," he said, "that drastic measures by government are appropriate to the present economic situation."

"My general conclusion is that our national product in 1954 will be at least equal to 1953, and probably higher. In other words, I think that an upswing in the second half of the year will more than compensate for the declines that are evident in certain branches of industry at present."

SURPLUS \$10,107,000
Monday, the minister announced an estimated 1953-54 budget surplus of \$10,107,000, based on revenues of \$4,400,086,000 and spending of \$4,389,979,000.

Mr. Abbott estimated the 1953 gross national product—market value of all goods and services produced in Canada—as \$24,345,000,000. That was \$1,100,000,000 up from 1952.

He expressed some uncertainty about the export trade outlook though he said grain export prospects are good by normal standards. For other exports

much depended on markets in the United States.

Mr. Abbott, in the part of his speech devoted to a general review of Canadian affairs in relation to international matters, said Canada cannot yet afford to relax on defence.

The free world must "continue to improve its defensive position in order to negotiate from strength."

In world trade, there had been progress towards free trade and payments, but it still fell short of what was needed. Major currencies were still inconvertible and there was widespread use of restrictions and discrimination.

While there was a slackening in the pace of economic expansion at home, Mr. Abbott said, Canadians should not feel unduly concerned about such a slowdown in the rate of advance.

"Indeed," he said, "in the dynamic kind of economy we have in Canada an occasional hesitation in its forward movement may well be one of the consequences of the buoyant character of our economic growth."

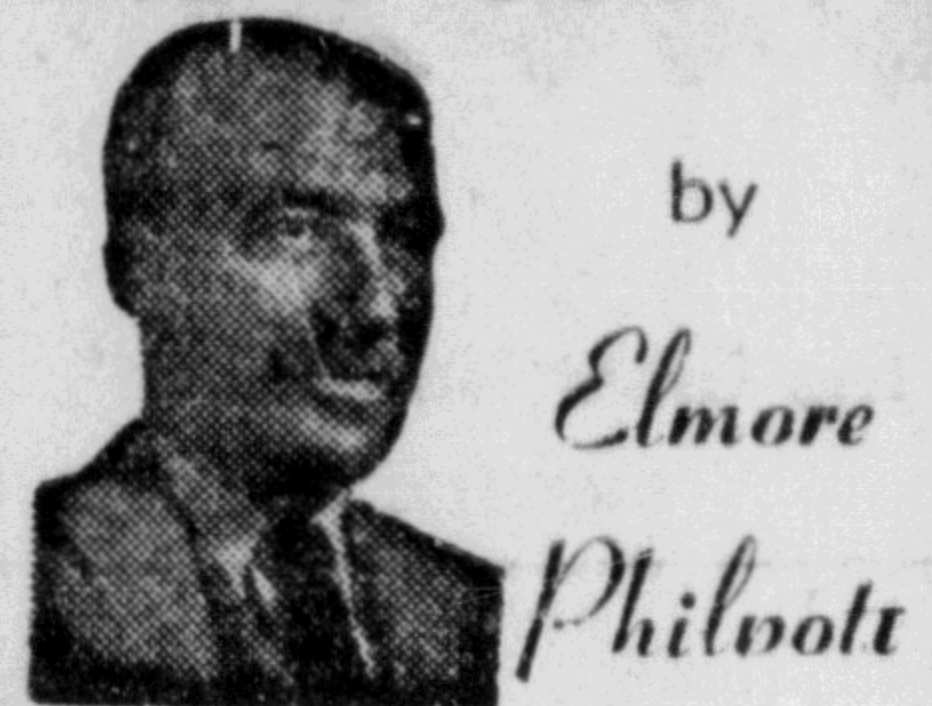
"Most of the elements which supported this growth in national product in 1953 are still present, and I believe that the forces of long-term expansion will soon re-assert themselves."

"But some readjustments in production, in costs and in pricing policies are necessary and are indeed going on."

At present, there was more unemployment than the government would like to see, and there were declines in certain industries.

Factors responsible for these included stiffer import and export competition, lower farm prices and smaller farm production.

As I See It



Rugged John

YOU SOON learn in parliament that there are wheels within wheels, and that things are hardly ever what they seem at long range.

Take the case of the rugged Albertan M.P., John Blackmore. He is the one open and avowed defender of McCarthy in a House of Commons where McCarthyism is like a red rag to a bull, and where to call a man a McCarthyite is just about as insulting as to call him a crook or a Communist.

Yet the plain fact of the matter is that the House has a warm spot in its collective heart for John Blackmore. Occasionally he makes the whole House of Commons boiling mad. At other times he makes them roar with laughter—such as when he suggested, apparently in all sincerity that the newspapers of Canada were actually owned or effectively controlled by Communists. But mostly the M.P.'s sit in wonder that a "decent old guy" like the rugged John Blackmore can get so far off the beam as he gets himself on so many questions.

For instance, John has told the House, more than once that what is the real trouble with the world is that there is a sinister "Turko-Mongolian Red conspiracy" to subvert the human race. When some of us told John, as gently but bluntly as we could, that the charge seemed hardly fair to our partners in NATO—the Turks—John just looked blank. He says "Turks are not included." But it is a safe bet that when the budget debate comes along, John will be back, as large as life, with more startling disclosures about those Turko-Mongolian Reds that apparently get around underground further and deeper even than the Alberta gophers—which in the famous B.C. election of 1952 burrowed clean through the Rocky mountains.

THE REASON the House has a warm spot in its heart for John is that they know he is honest. They believe he is wrong, about as wrong as a human being can be. But they also know that in a parliament where there are plenty of phonies, plenty of dodgers, plenty of pussyfooters, the M.P. for Lethbridge is in another category. He believes what he says—amazing as some of the things he says seem to the rest of us.

For instance, Mr. Blackmore promulgated the following suggestion as a means of getting rid of our wheat and other surpluses:

Canada would print an amount of money equal to the selling value of the surplus food. Canada would give—not lend, but give—this money to whatever overseas customer would take the food off our hands. The customer, in turn, would give back to Canada the extra money we had printed. The net result, most of us think, would be that we would have piles of surplus greenbacks in the farmers' back yards where the surplus unsold wheat is now piled up.

But the rugged John is not abashed by the fact that his unique proposal has not yet been adopted, even by his own party.

JOHN BLACKMORE is usually the first man in the House and the last man to leave at night. He gets there early with the help of a cane, because a lifelong physical injury, suffered at age two, makes it difficult for him to walk.

He knows as much about sugar beets as anybody in Canada. He has strong ideas too on such things as the evil of small families—snorting to the House about people who have "one child and five poodles." John himself fathered twelve fine Canadians, two of whom gave their lives in the armed services of Canada against Hitler.

CCF Fails in Bid To Cut Sentence

OTTAWA—The CCF has tried unsuccessfully to cut the maximum sentence for sedition to five from 14 years.

The attempt was defeated by 53 to 9 Tuesday during clause-by-clause study of the new Criminal Code, previously given approval in principle.

The current maximum penalty for sedition, teaching overthrow of the government by force, is seven years, increased from two years in 1951. Under the new Criminal Code, it will be 14 years.



CHILDREN UNDER TREATMENT at The Queen Alexandra Solarium forget their handicaps in normal play and activities. Here "Keith," seven years of age and hailing from Telkwa, shows "Gloria," eight-year-old patient from Vernon the fancy knots he has learned as a member of the Solarium Cub Pack. It is to give such youngsters as these the care and treatment they need that the Solarium Junior League issues their appeal for support of their Fifteenth annual Shower of Dimes.

VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. Nesbitt

One day in the Legislature, when oppositionists were weeping political tears because, they said, the municipalities are treated so shabbily by this government, Premier Bennett lost his temper a little and told oppositionists they were playing politics, were engaging in what looked to him like political manoeuvres.

This enraged many of the oppositionists. They were shocked that anyone—let alone the Premier—would say such things about them. The Premier calmed down then and said, oh well, perhaps they really weren't engaging in political manoeuvres; deep down inside him, of course, the Premier hadn't changed his mind.

Politics is always played in the Legislature. There's little wrong with that, provided it doesn't go too far. Our whole legislative system is based on party politics, so how can politics be kept out of the Legislature and politics doesn't necessarily have to be dirty anyway, though it sometimes is.

So, considering all this, why the oppositionists flew into a rage at the Premier is a bit of a mystery. Their rage, no doubt, was politically inspired.

We see examples of playing politics every day in the House.

It was playing politics when Liberal Bruce Brown of Prince Rupert wanted to know how much the by-election in Victoria last November cost—that famous by-election when Liberal Mr. Gregory beat Finance Minister Gundersen. Mr. Brown delights in bringing up that stinging Social Credit defeat, and the surprising and very pleasant Liberal victory—pleasant to the Liberals, humiliating to SC'ers.

Conservative Dr. Giovando of Nanaimo showed how politics is sometimes played in the Legislature. He came out and supported the increase in the sales tax to finance hospitalization for all the people. But, when the vote on the sales tax increase was called, Dr. Giovando dawdled over a cup of tea in the legislative restaurant, suddenly deaf to the clanging of the division bells.

Dr. Giovando evidently figured it'd be better politics for him to be able to tell his constituents that no, he didn't vote for the sales tax increase, he only thought it a good idea if the people didn't have to pay hospital insurance premiums.

The Premier was playing good politics when he had it recorded in the Journals of the House that the first Bennett budget passed unanimously. He grabbed at a straw and won a political victory. The oppositionists didn't vote for the budget, but they certainly didn't vote against it, and so, by default, so to speak, they gave the Premier a fine victory, and, his eye on future politics, he made the most of it, to the chagrin of the oppositionists.

The CCF often plays politics when it gangs up in an effort to beat down Labor Minister Lyle Wicks. They concentrate on Mr. Wicks in the hope he'll appear foolish in the eyes of organized labor, so that organized labor will turn violently against Social Credit, and to the CCF.

We've heard some highly unparliamentary language in recent days. When Liberal Leader Laing was talking Public Works Minister Gagliardi said "ah, nuts." When CCF Mr. Turner of Vancouver East was talking, the

mier laughed, and Mr. Turner said: "Laugh, clown, laugh!"

The Premier, one day said the increase in the sales tax will really give the people more money to spend, since they won't have to pay hospital insurance premiums. CCF Mr. Moore of Comox thought this a strange way of reasoning, and wondered how the Premier rates the mentality of the people of B.C. The Premier, looking to the inevitable general election, said he rates the mentality of the people of B.C. very high indeed.

As SC'ers stood to vote for the sales tax increase, Mr. Turner said to the Premier: "Just you wait 'til you get home," meaning the people of Kelowna will roast the Premier. "Oh, you said that last time," said the Premier.

Here again, you see, was party politics creeping into legislative debate.

CCF Mr. Harding of Kalso-Slocan looked over the SC benches and said he'd a hunch there'd been some rebellion in SC caucus, that it appeared to him the Premier's having quite a time keeping his boys in check.

The Premier laughed and laughed when he heard Mr. Harding say this, and SC backbenchers, when they heard the Premier laughing and laughing—well, they laughed and laughed, too, at Mr. Harding.

So, as you see, there's always party politics in the Legislature, and there always will be as long as we elect a Legislature on a system of party politics.

Bid To Change Labor Act Fails

VICTORIA—A six-man labor delegation Monday made an unsuccessful bid to have the government withdraw its new Labor Relations Act.

The delegation, instructed to demand the withdrawal of the act by the mass labor protest meeting, held here last week, interviewed the cabinet for more than 1½ hours.

The delegation said afterwards the government did not appear to be prepared to withdraw the bill or amend it.

R. K. Gervin of the Trade Union Congress, said Premier Bennett gave every indication the bill will be presented in the legislature without amendment.

Meanwhile, it is reported labor will continue to lobby members of the legislature in its effort to get support from Social Credit members for its demand. All opposition members have indicated they will demand withdrawal.



DINING PLEASURE

in SPARKLING NEW SURROUNDINGS

Commodore Cafe

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Not altogether surprisingly, the past week has spread a noticeable mantle of gloom over the whole of parliament, MPs of all political parties are manifesting a common reaction: they find it impossible to be comfortable in the uneasy presence of the hydrogen bomb.

It is just possible that the debate may go down in history as the most frustrating in its effects of any single parliamentary discussion. For the conclusion which it underlined was the futility from now on of war in any cause. Hitherto war, regardless of its cost in blood and treasure, was at least a means by which freedom might be maintained and ruthless aggression resisted. But now it is clear that in future there is to be no such thing as victory for either side, but just oblivion for both. That is a really sobering thought for all MPs.

The difficulty which the debate has left in its wake is to know what constitutes appropriate policy in this new hydrogen bomb age. Most MPs subscribe to the theory that armament races lead ultimately to war and that nations don't stockpile weapons and supplies without using them in the end. That has been the reason there has been a universal desire amongst the political parties to see an end to the "cold" war of recent years. The inevitability of it turning into a shooting war at some stage has been feared.

Now that it is realized that the modern world is engaged in an armament race with the hydrogen bomb as the chief weapon being stockpiled, that fear has increased many fold. The MP's regard the outlook as full of danger. Their strong sense of realism prevents them seeing any bright side to the situation.

In theory, of course, every MP knows exactly what should be done: the hydrogen bomb should be outlawed as an instrument of war; the East and the West should recognize that the only alternative to destruction for both is a settlement of their differences upon a basis of mutual tolerance; the cold war should give way to a marriage of expediency, even if the union

ray...

Reflects and Reminisces

At a supper party in London, the actor John Loder was seated next to an attractive French woman who lives in Italy. Loder, who knows the country well, asked in what part and she replied "In ne Norz."

"What beautiful lakes you have," he said.

"How can you see zem?" she asked. "Zey are under ze table."

We assume as a matter of course the superior height of Niagara Falls, but fail to realize we are wrong. There are two more lofty than Niagara. One is about 30 miles from Port Arthur. The other is near Della Falls, Vancouver Island. Hardly any newly weds ever see the Port Arthur and Della ceremony. But all the others make it a point to take in Niagara because it is so near there that so many make their home.

Two curates were discussing that perennial problem: how to dispose of used razor blades. Said one: "I bury them in packets at the bottom of the garden, what do you do?" Said the other: "I just put them in your room."

Smiles cost less than electric light and they make the home brighter.

should have some of the characteristics of a shot-gun wedding.
But the difficulty is to know how to bring about such a situation in practice. The risks of disarmament in a world of atomic weapons are too great for any nation to take the responsibility of unilateral action. And the problem of policing a mass disarmament so as to ensure the good faith of all participants is looked upon as insoluble at the present stage. Only one conclusion seems certain: since diplomacy hasn't got by any means the answer it needs, it is going to move cautiously in the months to come. We apparently are in for an era of ultra-careful diplomacy. And that should be a good thing in itself.

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