

Prince Rupert Daily News

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Important Meeting

HOW can Prince Rupert get an artificial skating rink? An indoor swimming pool? Is the Alaska Music Trail the kind of professional musical entertainment we want or should we try for something else?

These and other questions of equal importance to the community will come up at the annual meeting of the Civic Centre Association on Friday night. They are questions which are easy enough to discuss over coffee in the morning, but getting action on them is something else again.

So here is the chance. In the Civic Centre Association we have a large ready-made group potentially well suited to undertake certain recreational projects which the city badly needs. Unfortunately here is an inclination to let the opportunity go by absenteeism. When the association met last year, it was difficult even to raise a quorum.

In such circumstances there is bound to be a lack of initiative and new ideas. A few citizens work unsparingly year after year to keep the organization going and, considering the indifferent support, have done remarkably well. But if the association is ever to launch into major new ventures, it needs the numerical strength of active members.

No one who has studied the subject will try to minimize the cost of an artificial rink or a swimming pool. The money needed for either project would almost certainly run into six figures.

It presents a serious problem, but what about it? If we want these things strongly enough, we can have them. The tough part is not raising the money but overcoming the defeatist attitude which precedes it.

One good step as a starter is to attend that meeting Friday night.

Who's Your Choice?

WHILE returns in the voting for the Good Citizenship award are coming in fairly well, there are still not nearly enough ballots to give the judging committee a basis for selection.

With the deadline just a week away, everyone with a choice in mind for this award is urged to send in a ballot as soon as possible. Two or three candidates are appearing prominently in the voting, but in no case is there sufficient support to say this person or that should receive the award.

While the final choice lies with the committee, the voting provides a means of singling out the popular favorites. All ballots are treated confidentially. How about sending in yours today?

Scripture Passage for Today

"He spake boldly in the name of the Lord."—Acts 9:26

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

A Member of Parliament told one of his colleagues just recently: "I feel like the worker who fell from the roof of a ten-story building. As he passed a friend who was washing windows on the fifth story he called reassuringly to him: 'I'm all right so far.'"

The situation which has aroused this feeling of only day-to-day confidence amongst the legislators of all parties is the economic outlook. On the surface things continue in very normal fashion. Yet the warnings of possible crisis ahead are actually multiplying. They are coming, furthermore, from sources which make it impossible to ignore them.

For example, leading bankers traditionally are not loose-tongued but speak only when they consider the situation does not warrant silence. Similarly, the reputation of so eminent a figure as Principal Cyril James of McGill guarantees that no motive other than public interest lies behind any public statement that he may make. And over the past fortnight leading bankers and Principal James alike have been talking with disturbing frankness for the record.

They all have been stressing a common theme. They warn that if Canadian prices do not drop in unison with the decline which is in process in other countries, then Canadian goods will find themselves priced out of export markets, while low-priced foreign goods will be able to invade successfully the Canadian market. That obviously would mean unemployment and depression here. Principal James couples with his warning the

advice that taxes should be cut drastically with a view to cutting costs and enabling Canadian goods to meet the price competition which is ahead.

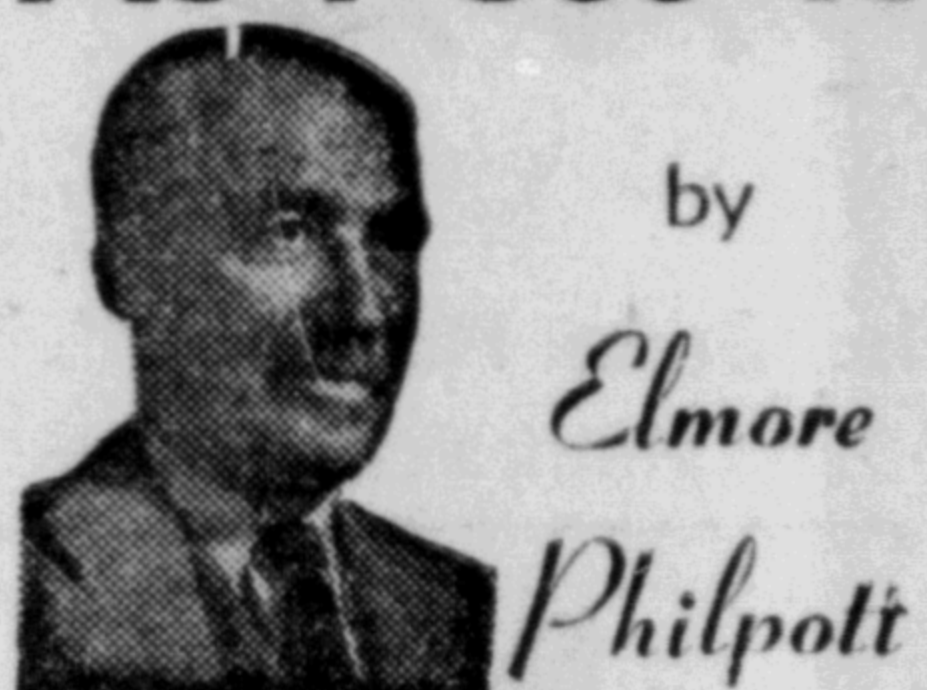
With a single exception, official Bureau of Statistics figures fail to bear out so far the warning of the experts. True, no single business index is rising at the moment. But the trend is one of gradual levelling-off, not of economic collapse.

The one exception is the unemployment figure. It is at least mildly disturbing. Between October 21st and November 21st the number of jobless rose 40,000. Then between November 21st and December 12th, which is the latest figure available, they jumped another 40,000. Unemployment normally increases in the late Fall and Winter. But it doesn't usually increase at this rate—especially when it is remembered that on December 12th the record mild weather favorable to the continuance of all outdoor employment still prevailed.

Regardless of party no one in Parliament wants a depression. But the warnings of the unprejudiced experts are getting on their nerves. Every M.P. is keeping his economic weather eye carefully peeled for any spreading signs of trouble.

URANIUM DEVELOPMENT
JOHANNESBURG (CP) — Dr. A. J. R. van Ryn, minister of mines, said about \$50,000,000 will be spent on developing the uranium resources of gold mines in the western Transvaal. The annual gross revenue from uranium is expected to exceed \$30,000,000, he added.

As I See It



New Flag Proposed

THERE are important developments taking place, behind the scenes, in regard to the proposed Canadian flag.

There is a strong move afoot to work out a compromise designed to satisfy many of the M.P.'s who would not vote for any flag so far proposed.

The idea is to make the official coat-of-arms of Canada the main feature of the new flag. Most people have only a vague idea what the coat-of-arms is, for in official newspaper advertisements it is reduced down, and printed in black on white—so comes out as a mere smudge.

But in the full official colors the coat-of-arms is really very imposing looking. The lion and the unicorn are there on the sides, as they are in the official seal of Britain. But in our Canadian coat-of-arms the lion carries a flag staff, complete with a Union Jack in full color. The unicorn upholds the French fleur de lys. The shield is of course the most familiar feature to most Canadians because it is the part and only part, which now appears on the unofficial red ensign.

There are some objections to the use of the whole Canadian coat-of-arms on a flag. Some argue it is too complicated. It is a strange but true fact that our Canadian coat-of-arms is much more complicated than that, for instance, of Great Britain.

The main objection is that it does not single out and magnify the only symbol which the Canadian people have always recognized as their own particular national emblem, the maple leaf.

Of all the thousands of letters that are written on the subject of the flag, over ninety-five per cent agree on only one thing, that the maple leaf should be given the most prominent place.

The coat-of-arms carries maple leaves in two places. There are three tiny green ones on the shield, and near the top the lion is holding up a small scarlet maple leaf in one paw. The critics prefer only one big leaf.

The Daughters of the Empire have always been the strongest organized body in Canada to oppose the idea of having a separate flag for Canada. Until now, they have held that the Union Jack, alone, was the only flag we needed or wanted.

But now the ruling body of the Daughters of the Empire has drastically shifted ground. It had endorsed as the best official flag for Canada the Canadian Red Ensign.

This, of course, is the one with the Union Jack in the upper left hand corner, and with the Canadian shield on the red field of the flag.

We have now reached the point, therefore, that just about everybody in Canada now agrees we do need a flag of our own. What flag is the question.

CFPR RADIO DIAL 1240 Kilocycles

(Subject to Change)

WEDNESDAY

6:00 Supper Serenade
6:30 Sunday Morning Show
6:45 Instruction to Wednesday Night
7:00 CBC News
7:15 CBC News Roundup
7:30 La Traviata
8:00 The Secret Agent
10:00 CBC News
10:15 A Look at the Future
10:30 Ladies' Night
11:00 Weather Report
11:00 Anyone Listening?
12:00 Sign-off

THURSDAY

12:00 B.C. Fishermen's Broadcast
7:00 Musical Clock
7:15 CBC News; Weather
7:35 Musical Clock
7:45 Morning Devotions
8:00 CBC News; Weather
8:10 Here's Bill Good
8:15 Breakfast Club
8:45 Laura Limited
9:00 CBC News and Com. Co.
9:15 Aunt Lucy
9:30 Come What May
9:50 Time Signal
10:00 Morning Visit
10:15 The Happy Gang
10:45 The Beulah Show
11:00 Your Good Neighbor
11:15 Kindergarten of the Air
11:30 Message Period
11:45 Carnation Entertains
P.M.
12:00 Born X Years Too Soon
12:15 CBC News
12:25 CBC Showcase
12:30 B.C. Farm Broadcast
12:35 Interlude
1:00 Records for You
1:30 Record Album
2:00 B.C. School Broadcast
2:30 Trans-Canada Matinee
3:15 Brave Voyage
3:30 Howdown
3:45 Hit Parade
4:15 As Times Go By
4:30 Camp Wilderness



WORK IS EXPECTED to start this winter on a tractor-and-sleigh highway for northern defence stretching over 1,800 miles of wilderness from Manitoba to the Yukon. It will stretch from the Manitoba mining community of Flin Flon to the Yukon settlement of Watson Lake. The winter-only road will run over frozen lakes and tundra and will be used by "cat-trains"—caterpillar-type tractors towing a number of loaded sleighs.

Report From

PARLIAMENT

By E. T. APPLEWHITE, MP Skeena

While I have not the full particulars yet, I understand that some provision in the nature of a "Northern Allowance" is being made for federal civil servants in our area. This is, in my opinion, no more than simple justice, but it is also good business if we are to keep good men and women in, or to attract new ones into, the country's service. The allowance, I suppose, will not be as large as some of us might have hoped, but it will, at least, be an official recognition of the merits of our case.

Congratulations to Phil Linzey and Art Nickerson upon their election as president and vice-president of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, also to Phil Ray upon his re-election as secretary. And I think the community of Prince Rupert, yes, and the surrounding area, owes a real vote of thanks to retiring president, Orme Stuart, for his year of hard and useful work.

For something over a year now I have been trying to get the government to assume responsibility for lights on the Skidegate dock, both inside the freight shed and on the dock itself. More recently, similar requests have come to me from other coastal communities, particularly from Bella Coola. So I am trying a new approach; instead of following up each of these requests separately, I am trying to get the government to adopt as a matter of policy that it is our responsibility to install and maintain lights on these docks. I do feel that if the government would pay for installation and for power, local citizens would most likely gladly volunteer to look after maintenance.

The dramatic argument about the future of the European Defence Community has tended to obscure the present facts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, on which the defence of Western Europe primarily depends. Although NATO's growth has been rapid the targets of expansion have not been reached and are not likely to be reached. Russia maintains in eastern Europe today—not to speak of its huge reserves elsewhere—much larger forces than NATO can command. The 1953 total defence budgets of the thirteen allies amounted to some \$66 billion, a figure that may not be reached again; I think we can be sure that just as we reduce our defence preparations, in just that scale will the need for them increase.

I am gradually moving into the swing of my new duties. My seat in the House has been moved to a second row seat handy to the Chair. I have on a couple of occasions already replaced Mr. Speaker when the House was in formal session, and last Wednesday I went through the formalities of officially adjourning the day's session. I have always been pretty regular and consistent in staying with the Chamber rather than working in my office during sitting hours; but with the new duties I find it almost impossible to leave the Chamber for more than a few minutes at any time.

The Senate re-convened after Christmas, a week later than we did. They re-opened on January 19th. The first item before them on their return was a message from His Excellency the Governor-General thanking the Senate for its address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

ray ...

Reflects and Reminisces

Four cent stamps are still being sold but the payment of five cents is thought to be not only on the way, but so near that a good many helpless Canadians confess to a feeling of nervousness. Listen to what Postmaster-General Cote says: "The increase is not a popular thing. However, I am not here to do the popular thing. I am here to do my duty." Ominous enough.

Our sympathy goes out to any candidate, anywhere, who has lost his voice. It must be terrible for a politician to have nothing to say and, be unable to say it.

HIS BIG HOUR

A newspaperman's most thrilling dream came true when Donald Ritchie surrendered to a reporter the other night in a Preston (Ont.) cafe and asked if he would mind calling the cops.

The high cost of children's haircuts jolts many young couples who can't even use a bowl because their crockery is all the modern square type—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Pay your dog licence. Fill out that income tax form. Shovel that snow. This life is just one thing after another.

It's not so long ago sometimes folks were declaring an effective way to keep feet warm on a cold winter night was to put on a pair of socks dipped in cold water and go to bed with wet feet. Personally we have made no change. An electric pad is useful. So is a bottle containing water which is hot, instead of cold.

WINTER WEARS AWAY

Don't bother worrying much longer about the winter. Any day now the seed catalogues, looking so bright and sociable, will be along.

Is it not a fact we develop scores of new wrinkles figuring on troubles that were never known to occur. And then, they get a lot of pleasure from anticipating happiness, the most of which never happens.

Use of the sword was common in Africa a little more than half a century ago. But it's been replaced by weapons infinitely worse.

The following small box advertisement appeared in the London Times in 1900. It pulled answers from all over England. Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success.—Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Three Oil Companies Pay Alberta Government \$26 Million For Lease

EDMONTON (CP)—The price of looking for oil in Alberta is going up. A peek beneath the surface of the little-known Pembina field can cost as much as \$140 an acre.

Three oil companies paid the Alberta government more than \$26,000,000 Tuesday to explore about 275,000 acres of the new Pembina light-gravity field, strengthening speculation that Pembina may equal the role of Redwater or Leduc in Alberta's oil economy.

Reservation rights in the field cost four firms a record \$26,001,287; the major part of an all-time high of \$30,417,182 received by the Social Credit government in its first oil lease and reservations sale of 1954.

The sale continues today with announcement of bids on some 21,000 acres in about 70 unproven tracts of crown-reserve land in widely-scattered sections of the province. It has already reached record proportions; the previous high for such a sale was \$12,881,436 in 1952.

The Pembina field, about 80 miles west of Edmonton and only 45 miles west of the Wizard Lake field, produced the first Canadian sand oil in Canada June 20, 1953. Nine producing wells now are turning out 37 gravity oil.

The highest reservation-rights price of the first day's sale, \$13,000,125, was paid by Texaco Exploration Co. Ltd. for 92,160 acres, more than \$141 an acre, in areas adjacent to the Pembina discovery well.

Fred E. Dowdie

OPTOMETRIST

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