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Scrooge Was Wrong

ET'S FACE the fact that just about this time Christmas probably gets more groans than cheers. There's all that shopping to be done, all those cards to send out and a variety of other chores which come under the heading of Christmas spirit.

In this frame of mind it seems that old Scrooge had something of a case when he inveighed against the whole business. Yet no one can really afford to be like him.

Let's put it a little more truthfully. No one really wants to be like him. Despite all the extra work that goes with it, the Christmas season has a special lustre of its own which brightens the whole atmosphere of living.

Have you ever noticed how people seem to smile more about this time? Have you ever listened to a Christmas carol and had a feeling of warmth and kinship unlike anything you experience at any other time? Have you ever felt more generous and tolerant at Christmas time than your disposition normally allows?

Undoubtedly you have. The effect of Christmas is no isolated personal experience. It has the quality of being able to embrace all in its mysterious winter magic. Christmas is a time of hope and reflection and an awareness that life is something more than two plus two making four.

For this brief period the gentler instincts of man are allowed their full range. He becomes a being gifted with extraordinary powers of kindness, prayer and fellowship. He would sooner be friend than antagonist.

Perhaps this is all pretty obvious, but there is no occasion for apology. After all, it happens only once a year.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

When British Columbia, about 30 years ago, started selling Christmas trees, the returns amounted to little more than a few thousands. Today the estimate cannot be less than a million. Most of the new money will be from the States.

Approximately 130,000 tons of herring have been caught along the coast, so far this season. Which do we weary of first? Fish or turkey and plum pudding? One could make a pretty fair guess.

A fanatic is a man who can't change his mind, and won't change the subject.

SEEING THE WORLD

By this time, Her Majesty and the duke are becoming used to the sea. More than eight days ago the Gothic left Panama and at last land has been sighted, the Marquesas which is the easternmost group of the south Pacific archipelago. The royal travellers will be due in Fiji December 17, but they are still a long way from Australia.

Even if we're receiving more rain than sunshine just now, it's actually no hardship to put up with it. Of course, there are handicaps. Many a day one can't perform outside work. Life can be monotonous and tiresome. Yet, to what extent do we

welcome and revel in the reverse? Plenty! Prince Rupert never suffers from extremes of heat or cold. Storm disasters are unknown. There can be warmth and a feeling of chilliness—just enough of each to be reasonably comfortable. And we know a lot about blue skies. As for snow, no one was ever known to have so much on his shovel, a back ache developed.

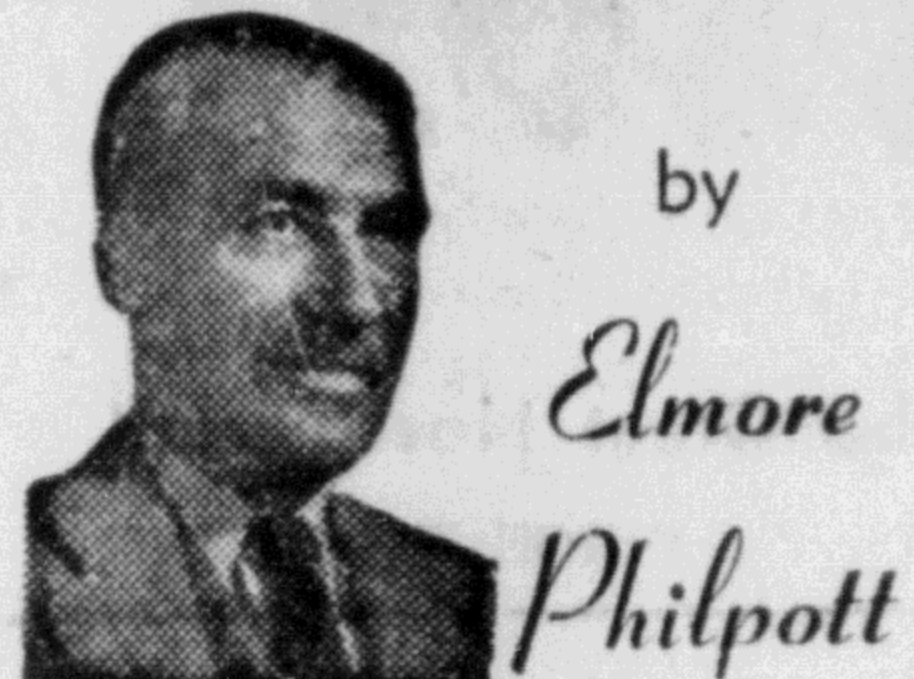
A couple of needy Vancouver men, over 60, applied for post office work during the holiday season. This was in Vancouver, and the applicants were rejected. On previous occasions, it had been discovered that these also lacked insufficient strength.

FORTY CENTS

For the second successive year, national defence in 1953 cost the Canadian taxpayer about forty cents of every dollar he paid into the treasury. It's not pleasant to contemplate but there's lots of things more disagreeable.

There are weekly newspapers in British Columbia that annually appear unable not to denounce the Christmas season. This is done, one would think, with all the bitterness at the command of the publisher. Why deceive children? Perhaps he experienced hardships during youth!

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Marpole Quiz

I THINK I must be the only newspaper writer in Canada who has never written a line about that famous Marpole bridge.

But as I am now an MP for the constituency where the bridge begins, or ends, I have to break down and mention it at last.

The constitutional authorities say that the building of bridges is entirely a provincial responsibility. They say that the only time the provinces have been able to get any money out of the federal treasury for assistance in building a bridge is when the bridge is international or inter-provincial.

Hence the wise old owls around Ottawa tell me there is very little chance of getting any substantial help from the federal government for the building of the Marpole bridge, unless the city of Vancouver should sell the airport to the Dominion of Canada. If and when that happens an entirely new set of facts will come into play.

The Marpole bridge will remain a terrible bottleneck for the traffic to and from the airport. Hence the federal government will have a vested interest in getting a new bridge if only to gain proper access to its own property.

MEANWHILE, a Marpole business man has written me a letter which has opened up a new line of thought. He is in perhaps the best position in all B.C. to know about the traffic by water up and down the Fraser River, and about the traffic by road across the bridge.

He says that, regardless of the outcome of the agitation for a new bridge, we should have a new method of control of the water and land traffic.

With a good many strong adjectives, he stresses the absurdity of swinging open the Marpole bridge every time a lone gillnetter or pleasure boat hoves into view.

The Shipping Act, says my pungent speaking friend, is as out of date as the horse and buggy. "You people down at Ottawa made it in the first place—you can remake it now."

ACTUALLY the Shipping Act is not as obsolete as my good friend imagines.

The act gives the minister the power to control water traffic, in special circumstances.

This is actually being done at the swing bridge at the entrance to Hamilton harbor. The

See PHILPOTT page 5

Steve and Nancy Santa Claus



by Wes Sullivan

The story so far: Santa Claus is about to take Steve and Nancy to the North Pole to take his place while he gets a nap before his Christmas Eve ride.

Chapter III

Steve and Nancy were all bundled up tight in coats and hats and mittens and rubber overshoes when they went over to climb out the window with Santa Claus and make the long trip to the North Pole.

Santa found it much easier getting out of the window than he did getting in, but even so, it took Steve and Nancy, each pulling one of Santa's long pointed shoes, to get him through. They walked through the soft white snow around the corner of the house and there on the front lawn was a sleek, silver sleigh. It was bright and shiny, like someone had used Mother's silver polish all over it. But even shinier still were the trimmings which were all in gold.

And those reindeer, all standing straight and tall. Steve and Nancy could just tell how proud they were to be Santa's reindeer. They all had gold harnesses and the front pair kept pawing the ground as if they wanted to be off and away.

They didn't have long to wait, because Santa leaped to the seat of the sleigh, pulling Steve and Nancy with him.

"Hold on tight, kids," Santa said. "These take-offs are a little rough without much snow on the ground."

Before the children had time to say a word they were high in the air.

They were going fast, so fast, in fact, that the cold wind couldn't keep up with them, so it felt nice and warm and calm riding along in the sleigh.

"You can look over the edges, children," Santa said, "but don't get too close. If you were to fall off I'd have to circle around and catch you before you hit the ground and that's pretty tricky business."

Steve looked over the edge on his side of the sleigh and down below him he could see the Willamette river winding along.

They sailed over the small towns so fast that the children didn't have time to call out their names.

More towns and cities flew by and then the forests, vast forests with pretty lakes and high mountain peaks, all shining in the light of the moon.

All the time there seemed to be more snow on the ground, un-

til at last there was nothing but snow and ice. Ice piled in big jagged heaps and long stretches of smooth ice.

Suddenly Santa pulled up sharply on the reins and the reindeer began to circle about, slowly, getting lower all the time.

And then the wind caught up with them, all out of breath. It was certainly chilly. Steve and Nancy were glad it hadn't been able to keep up with them all the way.

"Here we are, kids," Santa said as the sleigh settled onto a long snow runway. Up ahead the children could see hundreds of colored lights, shining all colors of the rainbow on the snow. As they drew nearer they could see that the lights came from tiny windows and from the colored glass in many tiny doors.

"Pretty cold out here," Santa said. "We'd better get inside." And he led the children to the nearest cottage door.

(Tomorrow: Santa's play-things.)

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- ★ Totem Pole Gift Shop

THEIR BEAUTIFUL WINDOWS ARE MAKING PRINCE RUPERT A CHRISTMAS CITY

Union Representatives to Meet Today With Can Company Officials

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Federal mediation commissioners arranged talks today which they hope will help end a strike of 33,000 CIO United Steelworkers which has dealt a near knockout blow at production of tin cans in the U.S. and Canada.

The USW is on strike against Continental Can Company and American Can Company in a contract dispute. Continental employs 13,000 USW members and American 20,000.

Today's session, first since the walkout was called Dec. 2, was between representatives of American Can Co. and the USW.

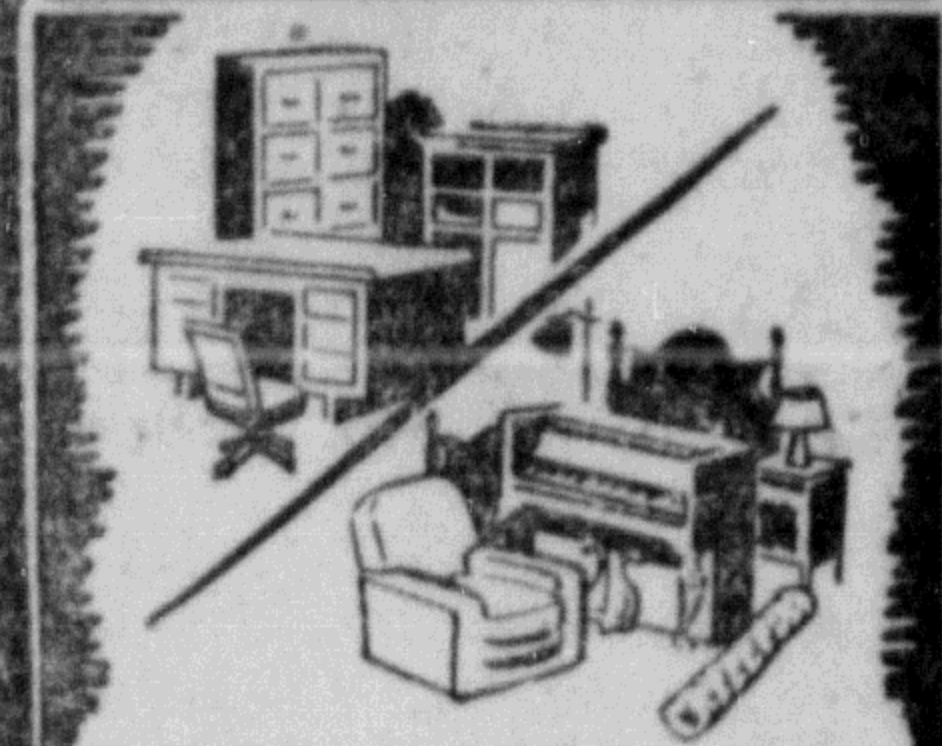
The mediation service arranged another meeting here Wednesday between the union and bargainers of Continental Can Co.

Company spokesmen said the USW is asking an 8½-cent hourly boost for its members employed in 72 plants scattered throughout the U.S. and in Montreal and Vancouver. Fringe benefits would make the total 20½ cents an hour, the spokesmen say. The union hasn't publicized its demands. Workers now average \$1.80 an hour in the U.S. and \$1.50 an hour in Canada.

Continental says it has offered a 10½-cent package but the union has rejected it. There has been no comment from the union.

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