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The PGE Shunted Again

IT IS DISTURBING to note that so far no political party aspiring to the provincial government has had anything to say about railway construction except that the PGE should be extended north or south, or both.

This blithe acceptance of the theory that something should be done to extend the PGE, no matter what, has all the appearance of everyone climbing on a bandwagon without any particular interest in its destination. To some extent the scramble is understandable in light of the PGE's sorry history as a headless wonder which is finally beginning to resemble an orthodox railway. Its eventual connection with Prince George was desirable, and so too will be its extension into Vancouver, if that ever comes to pass.

At the same time, this blissful pre-occupation with the PGE betrays one-track thinking in every sense. It is, of course, a frame of mind which is easily acquired as it is so popular in the areas where the votes are thickest. Unfortunately, the relative value of doing something about the PGE is negligible in the broader picture of this Pacific territory.

While the movement of traffic by barge at the southern end of the line is inconvenient, its correction can hardly be classed as one of momentous importance to any great section of B.C. The proposed extension northward has even less to commend it if it is held to be a means of opening up the Peace River country—and there is nothing else to justify it. The fact is that the limited part of the Peace River country where the railway would do its so-called opening up has been opened up already. The highways department saw to that some time ago with construction of the John Hart road.

Thus, aside from accomplishing nothing new, the PGE would find itself in parallel competition with trucking lines, a type of contest which railways generally do not regard with favor.

If the politicians are determined to be railway builders, let them consider an east-west line through the Peace River block instead of the line of least resistance and least value as visualized by an extension of the PGE. Starting at Hazelton and pushing through to Finlay Forks, then along the Peace River into Alberta, such a railway would have one end almost in the ocean at Prince Rupert while its length would lie along some of the richest land in B.C.

So far there have been no bandwagons along this route, but public figures addicted to that type of transportation have never been trail-blazers anyway, so on that point there is no real cause for concern.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

For a moment it seemed the other day as though the nation's farmers were on the point of getting a break. The Federal Bureau of Statistics reported that over a four-month period prices of the commodities and services they use had dropped 3.9 per cent.

It wasn't much of a drop. But it was a start. At least raised the hope that the Canadian agriculturist might look for gradual relaxation of the squeeze between rising costs and falling prices in which he has been gripped since World War II.

Unhappily, the Bureau of Statistics neglected to report the other side of the picture. The other side was that, over the same period during which farm costs had eased by 3.9 per cent, prices of farm commodities had skidded by 8.12!

The farmer, in other words, was relatively worse off than he had ever been by upwards of five per cent!

The Bureau of Statistics has been turning out a fairly heavy volume of farm statistics during the past week or more. The noteworthy thing about them is the striking contrast they afford to similar statistics concerning the lot of the industrial worker.

Ever since World War II, almost without interruption, Canadian workers have been living in a world of fattening pay envelopes, diminishing working hours, increasing "fringe" benefits, and steadily rising "real" wages.

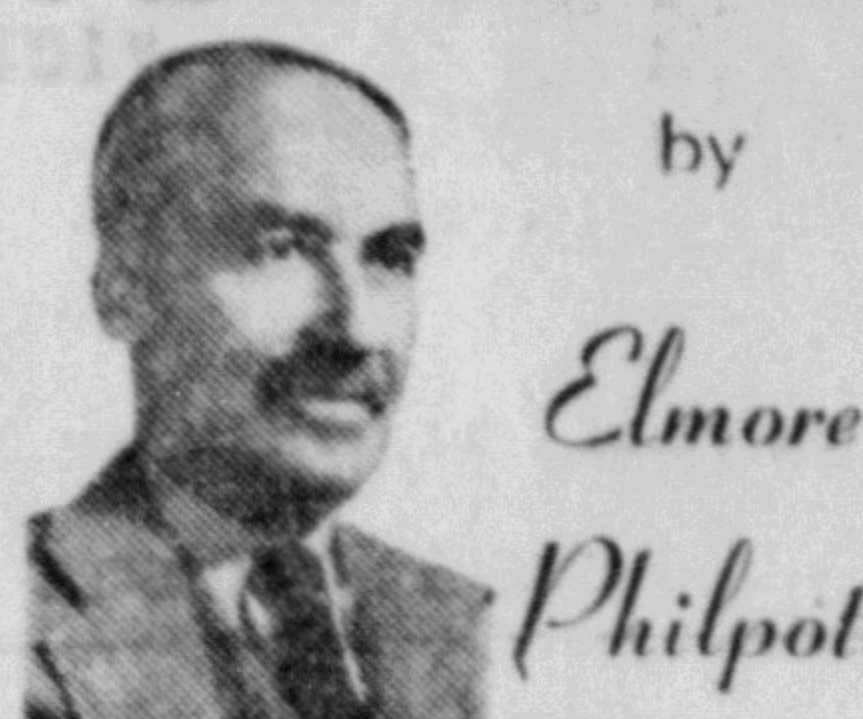
But not so the Canadian farmer. For example:

During the past year the number of cattle and calves on Canadian farms have increased by almost a million—from 4,914,000 to 5,741,000. But their aggregate value has decreased by more than \$160,000,000—from \$1,593,000,000 to \$1,426,000,000.

If this huge shrinkage in the value of the cattle inventory were the whole of the farmer's story of misfortune, it would be bad enough. But there is another feature to the situation which in some ways is more discouraging than the financial aspect. Cattle require care and work—a lot of it. And farm labor is both scarcer and more expensive than it ever has been in history. The consequence is that the farmer, in addition to suffering his inventory loss, has to shoulder a disheartening burden of additional work because of the increase in his herd.

The only political party in the House that the farm statistics appear to have really impressed is the CCF. The Socialists are new cry to replace their old doctrine on the look-out for some trine of economic discontent, which the rise in Canadian living standards has rendered obsolete. There is more than an even-money chance that they will come out in the coming election as the farmer's champion. They're at least playing with the idea that such a policy would invest their movement with maximum appeal in Western Canada.

As I See It



Mr. Foley Talks Sense

HAROLD S. FOLEY is the president of the Powell River Company, a giant manufacturer of newsprint. By any measurement he is one of the big men of the business world.

Under his enlightened management Powell River has been transformed from a company town where it was literally as much as your job was worth to harbor "dangerous" (CCF) thoughts to one as free and neighborly as any community of similar set-up in Canada.

Mr. Foley has just given another proof of his enlightened outlook.

"Peace in Korea could only help us in our industry," says Mr. Foley. He shows that in the middle thirties—at the very trough of the Great Depression—Powell River Co. was selling to China alone a tonnage equal to one-fifth of its giant output for last year. Newsprint sales by his company to Asia were 65,039 tons in 1935.

PEACE IN KOREA will do on a small scale what total peace would do on a bigger scale—temporarily upset some business.

It is notoriously true that the stock market always gets jittery about every change—good or bad. The stock exchanges go into a tail spin when peace threatens to break out. But they go into a worse tailspin when war breaks out too.

But in the longer run the whole world stands to gain and not lose from peace, everywhere. And no part of the world stands to gain quite so much as does British Columbia from genuine peace with China. Real peace between Canada and China will speed up the development of B.C. as nothing has so far done in our history.

Vancouver, of course, is destined to become not only the greatest city in Canada, but one of the great industrial ports in the entire world.

That requires three preliminaries: Real peace, development of a gigantic Fraser Valley fish-ladder power, and an iron and steel industry on this coast. Why ship our B.C. iron ore to power-poor Japan, when we have only developed one-fifth of our potential?

IT TOOK BRITAIN a hundred years to industrialize. It took the United States seventy-five. It took Germany fifty—and it took Russia twenty-five.

How long will it take China—by every measurement, the greatest single nation on earth—literally the sleeping giant?

Every backward country that starts out to modernize profits from all the know-how of the countries which have gone before.

I saw a wrecked and ruined Germany in 1949—with cities just giant heaps of rubble. I saw that same Germany in 1951 pouring out products from modern factories. Its ruin had turned out a blessing in disguise—for when it rebuilt everything was more up-to-date.

NOBODY IN HIS right sense should fear peace. Moreover, the challenge of peace may at long last persuade the managers of industry and the representatives of labor to sit down at one table together to figure ways and means of holding old overseas markets and getting new ones. In the past, they have only met to fight. It's not enough.

Brig. Allard Reaches Seoul

SEOUL, Korea—Brig. Jean Victor Allard, describing himself as a "new boy," arrived in Seoul today to assume command of Canada's 25th Infantry Brigade in Korea. He was met at Seoul by Brig. M. P. (Pat) Bogert of Toronto, his predecessor in the command.

Fire Damages Hospital Floor

NEW WESTMINSTER—A stubborn wood, cork and tar fire Monday gutted the basement floor of the new \$650,000 administration building at the provincial mental hospital at nearby Essondale.

Official estimates placed damage at \$50,000. No one was injured.



JOHN H. ENGLISH, 51, Canada's commercial counselor in Washington, has been appointed as head of all Canadian government trade commissioners. The Edmonton born trade veteran, who has held foreign trade posts in New York, Dublin, London, Johannesburg and Washington, succeeds George R. Heasman of Ottawa. Mr. English joined the trade department 27 years ago.

ray ... Reflects and Reminisces

Pat Mandell, says a Vancouver daily, has been given six months for impersonating a newspaper writer. Truth to tell we never imagined reporters looked so much like bankers.

The "horseless carriage" is a luxury for the wealthy. Its price will probably fall in the future, but it will never, of course come into common use as did the bicycle—Literary Digest.

The persons hardest to convince they're at retirement age are children at bedtime.

EACH NEEDLESS

It was Oscar Wilde who referred to Niagara Falls as "simply a vast unnecessary amount of water going the wrong way and then falling over unnecessary rocks."

Monday's broadcast had the story about the crowded hotel. It seemed a guest was asked if he objected to two occupants in his room. He did not mind, at all. There was a feather bed. About 2 a.m. the following day he was awakened by a shove in the ribs, and a deep voice saying: "It's my turn with that feather."

A dear little old lady entered a suburban bungalow and found a lad of four in sole possession, playing with his toy train. "You don't know," said the old lady, "but I'm your grandmother—on your father's side." Without looking up from his train, the lad replied: "I'll tell you right now: you're on the wrong side."

A blue-green snowfall was reported in Nevada last week, following the atomic bomb explosion. In some way not yet explained, it has been suggested, Kentucky grass and Nevada herbage, giving a greenlike tinge has the state somewhat puzzled.



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Phone Firehall for permit to burn rubbish.

By authority,
EARL BECKER, Fire Chief

VICTORIA REPORT By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—The last of the Pattullo Liberals in the Legislature—that's E. T. Kenney, who has announced he won't run again for the House. His retirement from the battle of politics came as a surprise. Ed Kenney's such a scrapper that it never occurred to anyone that he could possibly stay out of a "lection fight."

Kenney, last session, was the only one left of the 34 Liberals who swept into office in the great Liberal victory of 1933, under Thomas Dufferin Pattullo, that grand old man of B.C. public life, now 80.

Ed Kenney was part of that avalanche. There were some mighty Liberals elected that year of '33—Pattullo, Gerry McGeer, A. M. Manson, John Hart, Harry Perry, George Weir, Gordon Sloan, Ed Barrow, that wonderful old farmer of Chilliwack. It was that 1933 election, too, that turned up Ernie Winch and his son Harold; it was that election that Hero Anson first got into the House; and Harry Pooley was returned for Esquimalt, a sad remnant of the once-powerful Tolmie government.

Death and defeat at the polls have taken their toll through the years, there were some retirements, until only Ed Kenney, of all those Liberals, was left. Now he, too, is gone. To think that when the next Legislature meets there won't be one link with the Pattullo victory of 1933 fills one with nostalgia and convinces one that one is getting on.

Royal Visitors

Government House, the big mansion the taxpayers of B.C. maintain for the representative of their sovereign, was a glitter last week-end for yet another royal visitor—this time the Crown Prince of Japan, 19-year-old Akihito, son of Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako. The red carpet was rolled out in its stiffest, most formal style, denoting that Canada and Japan are now friends again.

Government House, in its 50 years, has been host to many royalties—chief of whom were King George VI and Queen Elizabeth; the Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, the King and Queen of Siam; the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, when he was Prince of Wales, and his brothers, the Dukes of Gloucester and Kent.

The Japanese Crown Prince occupied the suite where once

slept King George VI in 1939 and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1951.

Getting Set

New B.C. Liberal leader Arthur Laing has a tough job ahead of him. But if anyone, at this time, can lead the Liberals to victory, it's Laing. He bears watching. Even optimistic Social Crediters are sorry Laing's the man. He's got fine platform personality, and that's a big help in a campaign. He has the whole party solidly behind him, and that's an even greater help. No splits in Liberalism this election, like last time, when Byron Johnson was saying one thing about hospital insurance and Gordon Wismer was saying the exact opposite. That Johnson-Wismer feud helped drag the Liberals down.

Art Laing, accepting the job, made a big personal sacrifice. He was well established in the broader field of Ottawa, as MP for Vancouver South. Now it's do-or-die for him. It took courage for him to step from comparative safety into the unknown, to lead a party still reeling from the blows the people dealt it last June 12. There are those who insist Laing has been led to the slaughter, that his political neck is now nicely on the block, waiting for the axe. There might be some truth in this. It'll be the premiership for him—or oblivion. Political party leaders, once hiked, seldom come back.

Let's hope now we'll hear no more of the foolish talk about Chief Justice Sloan resigning from the bench to go back into politics. Mr. Sloan's place, in the best interests of B.C. and its people, is right where he is now—the Chief Justiceship of British Columbia. He never gave the slightest hint that he was after

Liberal party leadership, and yet the wild talk went on, and it must have been highly embarrassing to him. Why would any man leave a position of prestige and authority—and the work he loves best—to go back into the hurly-burly of politics? Next time you hear Sloan mentioned as a Liberal party leader—and you will if the Liberals don't win June 9—just dismiss the whole idea immediately. It'll never happen.

Entertainers

Victoria branch of B.C. Government Employees' Association has an entertainment troupe. They punch typewriters and file letters and add figures all day and evenings they sing and dance and make "music—not only for themselves, but for shut-ins, too.

Last week-end the troupe of 20 motored to Nanaimo, took the steamer to Vancouver, there boarded a bus for Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale, performing before 600 patients. They rushed back to Van-

ouver to board the steamer for Victoria. The government is all singing and dancing and mentally ill out of their minds and help them back to

Reeve Scanlan Retires After 37 Years

VANCOUVER—Reeve Scanlan of the district of Vancouver, and assistant engineer for the Canadian National Railways in Vancouver, was honored by fellow workers when he retired after 37 years with the C.N.R. At a presentation ceremony the CN depot, J. I. C. Winnipeg, chief engineer, western region, presented Scanlan with a cheque for \$1,000, a testimonial of his many friends in British Columbia and the western region.

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Provincial Election Act

The Provincial Voters List is now being revised

If you are not registered you will not be able to vote at the next Provincial Election.

Registration on the Dominion or Municipal voters lists does not mean that your name is on the Provincial Voters List.

The responsibility is YOURS... to see that you are properly registered.

Registration Centres will be opened, between April 16 and 27 inclusive, at the following locations:

Location	Hours
Ormes Drug Store Prince Rupert, B.C.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Except Sundays)
Registrar of Voters Office Court House, Prince Rupert, B.C.	Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 Noon
In addition to the above, Registration Cards are available at the following places throughout the district:	
Mrs. Alma Hadland, Dodge Cove, B.C.	Indian Superintendent, Masset, B.C.
Mr. Herald Gray, Masset, B.C.	Mrs. Alberta Brown, Skidegate, B.C.
Mr. Adam Pyper, Port Clements, B.C.	Selwyn Logging Company, Passet, B.C.
Hudson's Bay Company, Port Simpson, B.C.	Mr. Nelson Brew, Haysport, B.C.
Butedale Cannery, Butedale, B.C.	Klemtu Cannery, Klemtu, B.C.
Mr. H. R. Beavan, Queen Charlotte City, B.C.	Mr. Danny McLeod, Humpback Bay, B.C.
Nelson Brothers Limited, Port Edward, B.C.	Mrs. B. Ryan, Metlakatla, B.C.
Mr. E. C. Stevens, Skidegate, B.C.	Mrs. Grace Vickers, Kitkatla, B.C.
Kelly Logging Company, Aerod Camp, Cumsheewa Inlet, B.C.	Morgan Logging Company, Cumsheewa Inlet, B.C.
Mr. John Francis Murray, Hunts Inlet, B.C.	Kelly Logging Company, Juskatla Camp, B.C.
Inverness Cannery, Inverness, B.C.	Sunnyside Cannery, Sunnyside, B.C.
Mrs. L. N. Iverson, Oona River, B.C.	North Pacific Cannery, Skeena River, B.C.
Mrs. T. Johnson, Osland, B.C.	Cassiar Cannery, Skeena River, B.C.
Northern Pulpwood Ltd., Sandspit, B.C.	Indian Superintendent, Prince Rupert, B.C.
Mr. E. S. Richardson, Tleil, B.C.	

NO GENERAL HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

Those already on the Voters List will receive Post Card notification that they are registered.

GORDON F. FORBES,
Registrar of Voters,
Prince Rupert Electoral District,
Court House, Prince Rupert, B.C.