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Silence Over Cow Bay

IT IS impossible to make any sense from the case of the Cow Bay floats. Months ago when alarm was first felt that they would not be ready for fishing this summer, word was received that difficulty was being met in transferring the property to the federal government. Allegedly, however, Ottawa was aware of the predicament shaping up and was completing legal arrangements as rapidly as possible.

After weeks had passed in silence the uneasiness increased and various local organizations and individuals sent out another call for action. This time the definite reply was received that temporary repairs would be made immediately and that later on steps would be taken to do the job for keeps.

There was a quick uplift of heart but that has all gone now. Not a nail has been driven, not a thing has happened to suggest that any progress has been made since the call for help was first uttered.

We know that one local firm offered to do the work, but beyond that the case is lost in the deepest mystery—and the most profound inaction.

Coming on top of other disappointments Prince Rupert has received from Ottawa during the past year, failure to repair the Cow Bay floats is staggering. Perhaps it can be argued there that this city does not need a drydock or an airport—though we do not see with what logic. But how can it be argued that this important fishing port does not need a place to dock its fishing boats? At this rate, it will eventually be questioned that there is any need for Prince Rupert at all.

It cannot be seriously supposed that Ottawa overlooks the importance of adequate fishing facilities here, but a sense of urgency appears to be lacking. This is one matter that definitely cannot be left unattended until just before an election. Regardless of what action is taken then, the smell of things that were left to rot in the interval will be lingering on.

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.

1954

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

This is to advise all citizens that from June 7 until June 15 (inclusive dates), the City Forces will collect and dispose of all accumulated debris and trash, if placed conveniently to the roadway.

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PRIME MINISTER ST. LAURENT and his wife admire a bronze bust of the prime minister given him at Ottawa by the National Liberal Federation. Duncan K. MacTavish, president of the federation, looks on. The presentation was made at the Ottawa convention of the Young Liberal Federation of Canada.



As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpot

• AGNES MacPHAIL FUND

SOME young Canadians made a presentation the other day to the Prime Minister. It was a bronze bust of the great statesman. I thought I detected a rather odd look in the eyes of the Prime Minister when he gazed on his own statue.

I think the late and great Agnes MacPhail—the one and only Agnes—would give quite a smile and chuckle out of the proposals that are now afoot to honor her memory.

I can just imagine Agnes saying: "They wouldn't put me in the Senate, but now they are going to put my picture, or even my bronze bust, just outside the Senate door. They know that is the kind of an Agnes who can't talk back to them."

HOWEVER, there is one proposal which seems to me altogether fitting. The Elizabeth Fry Society, which does such wonderful work toward improving prison conditions, is raising funds for "Agnes MacPhail Memorial Scholarships."

The idea is that the money shall be used for scholarships for social work, for students who intend to specialize in work with prisoners. Later, a Chair of Penology is to be set up in connection with some good university. This certainly is a cause which will carry the work which was closest to Agnes MacPhail's own heart. Apart altogether from the wonderful work she did to improve conditions in the (Merrier) Toronto Reformatory, and among ex-prisoners, she was chiefly responsible for the Royal Commission on Penitentiaries.

One of the most tragic facts is that Canada sends to prison vast numbers of youngsters who would not be sent to prison if they lived in some such country as Britain, or Scandinavia, where they are better equipped socially to deal with convicted persons placed on probation.

THE Elizabeth Fry Society is a fine organization of responsible people. It is admirably fitted to handle the funds for the Agnes MacPhail Memorial Fund, especially as Agnes herself was its Honorary President during her lifetime.

Cheques should be made payable to the Agnes MacPhail Memorial Scholarship Fund, 344 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. ☉—Employment officer D. A. Kane says there has been a shortage of farm help for seeding. A farmhand now needs to be a mechanic to handle all the equipment, he said, and farm mechanics are not too plentiful.

which did such admirable work in 1936.

AS I POINTED out at the time of her death, the finest of all tributes paid to her was written by a young prisoner in the Prince Albert Penitentiary, who wrote, in part:

"Eventually she shamed the callous federal government into adopting a more humane policy of handling the thousands of persons sent to penitentiaries every year. The fight was long and sustained, but Canada's new penal program of today is evidence of its worth."

I TALKED the other day with the keen young lawyer who is the counsel for the parliamentary committee on capital punishment. We were discussing the lack of easily available statistics about prisons and prisoners in Canada.

He ventured the opinion that the greatest missing link in our whole set-up in Canada, in this field, was a department of penology in some good university.

Canada lags far behind many other countries in this respect. It is strange, but true, and it is sad but true, that while Canada has one of the finest welfare state systems in the whole world, that is for most classes of people, our attitude towards prisoners is scores of years behind the times.

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OTTAWA DIARY By Norman M. MacLeod

One reason the government is anxious to get the current session of Parliament over as soon as possible is unemployment. It looks as though its going to be a troublesome problem right through the summer. And the Cabinet isn't anxious to have the Opposition sounding off about it in the House of Commons.

Curiously enough, it appears to be a new sort of unemployment problem that is developing this year. On the one hand, a definite shortage of unskilled labor appears to be scheduled for mid-summer or early autumn at the latest. But at the same time, a surplus of skilled labor seems equally certain. And it is a surplus with which government authorities recognize that it is going to be particularly difficult to deal.

The cue to the situation is given in the fact that over the past fortnight unemployment figures have begun to rise again, especially in the large centres of population. The increase is only slight. But it is unprecedented at this time of year. In previous Mays and Junes employment always has continued to expand towards its mid-summer peak.

The reason unemployment has gone up at the present time is largely the lay-offs scheduled by the automotive industry. After having maintained a tempo equal to last year for the first six months, a 17 per cent drop in sales has forced it to slow down. Other industries

which earlier had reported sales difficulties—textiles and farm implements especially—have experienced no recovery. Consequently, there has been no counter-movement to compensate for the slackening in the automotive field.

Federal authorities estimate that by July 1st or shortly thereafter there will be a job theoretically available for every idle worker. But they recognize that the great bulk of the jobs will be at unskilled labor. They

Deputy Chief Dies at Fire

PORT ALBERNI, B.C. (CP)—Jock Redford, 53-year-old deputy chief of Port Alberni's voluntary fire department, collapsed and died at the scene of a blaze early this week.

He collapsed, apparently from a heart attack, a few minutes after arriving at a fire in the King Edward hotel.

A member of a pioneer Alberni family, he had been a member of the fire department since 1936.

Considerable damage was done to the hotel by the fire and by smoke and water.

EARLY TRADING POST

Godbout on the north shore of the St. Lawrence below Quebec was a trading post before 1670.

PRINCE RUPERT TO

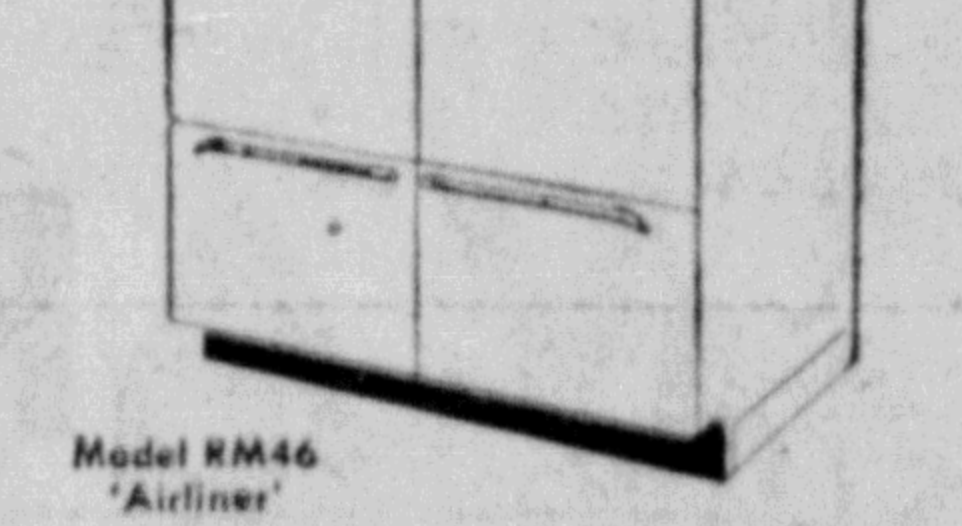
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