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On to the Coast

WHEN the inevitable becomes fact and a railway into the Peace River country finally is built, its actual construction is unlikely to be half as eventful as the crusade which preceded it.

Few projects have been championed so long and so bitterly, and against such odds. Its history goes far back through the years when lines of steel first entered the north country, and it is still being written in strong terms despite the apparent indifference of those who could do something about it.

The latest development has taken place in Peace River, Alberta, where the coast rail outlet committee of the Peace River associated boards of trade is making a fresh attempt to gain support for the undertaking.

In a circular letter to all interested towns and organizations, the committee has extended an invitation to a public meeting to be held on Dec. 9. The purpose of the gathering will be to set up an organization for which the proposed name is "On to the Coast Association." The order of business then will be to consider hiring legal assistance and a railway construction engineer for preparation of a case to be presented to the federal cabinet.

It is to be noted that nowhere in their program do those initiating this move suggest they are advocating a northward extension of the PGE. The same policy of leaving the route open to choice was followed at the recent convention of the B.C. Chamber of Commerce. The policy adopted at the convention reads: "Such a rail link would cross the northern transcontinental line of the CNR and goods could flow through any Pacific port."

Although undoubtedly he had an extension of the PGE in mind, Bert Leboe, MP for Cariboo, added his bit to the Peace River railway story a few days ago by making it an important part of his maiden speech at Ottawa.

"Surely," he said, "it should not be necessary in this day and age to have grain, livestock and other commodities hauled by truck over 100 to 150 miles before reaching the railhead."

And so the campaign rolls on, still without any sign of success but always propelled by the obvious need to remove the blockades from the rich Peace River country. It is our conviction that this could be best accomplished by giving it an outlet to the coast more accessible than what Vancouver, through extension of the PGE, would provide.

But this is not the time to quibble about routes. The important thing is to convince the powers that be that the job should be done, that it will pay and that the Peace River country deserves to be an integral part of this Dominion.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

According to a waiter, most women have a leaning toward sweet red wine. A list to port, so to speak.

ANYWAY, IT'S KNOWN

Suggestions were first heard about a year ago, that the West India Islands become part of Canada, and while it aroused a few smiles and some serious expressions, the idea by this time is rarely mentioned. For example, how long have we realized that of Jamaica's million people, practically half are colored.

Vancouver, through her press, appears to take solemn pride in chalking up her twenty-fourth day of rain in November. Just as if the people never suspected there has always been sufficient, and quite frequently more than enough, ever since there has been a Vancouver.

If men who did things talked half as much as men who knew how things ought to be done, life would not be worth living.

Thursday's Sun printed nine teen marriage dissolutions, and in New Westminster, nine more.

This much is certain. The list is not shorter and it goes for all Canada.

LITTLE SPARE TIME

Before Her Majesty is back home the queen will have opened six parliaments; made four broadcasts; laid seven wreaths; unveiled three memorials; planted six trees; attended 50 state balls, garden parties, luncheons, dinners, 143 receptions; 38 children's receptions; race meetings; exhibitions, plays and movies; travel 50,000 miles—18,500 by sea, 19,650 by air, 9,950 by car and 1,600 by rail, and sleep in 14 government houses, ten hotels, three private homes, two ships one train and one royal palace.

Lord Alexander, a former governor-general of Canada, and since retirement, commanding Great Britain's defences does not pretend to be what he isn't. His Lordship is making it perfectly plain that Britons, obliged to earn their own living are not being given enough. And he's one of them.

Spy: An Intelligence Officer if he is on your side.

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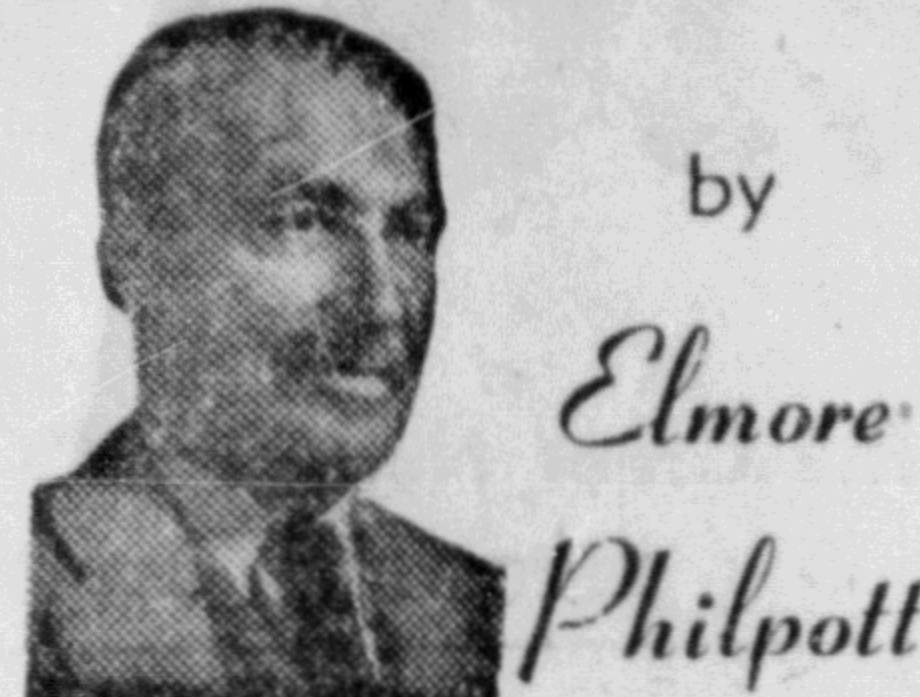
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As I See It



Balloon Deflated

IT WAS a dramatic scene in the parliament of Canada when the Honorable Lester Pearson rose to deal with the now famous spy case concerning Harry Dexter White.

When the minister was finished he received a prolonged round of applause, only exceeded by that which the opposition leader got when he backed up Mr. Pearson.

But a couple of days later, when everybody had had a good chance to read through the text of the speech, and the notes between the governments, it became clear that the balloon of this crisis had been deflated with a gentleness which deliberately turned a blind eye to the most embarrassing facts.

MR. PEARSON deliberately ignored the fact that the Attorney-General of the United States had published a confidential document, concerning Canada, without Canada's consent.

But in exposing the background of that confidential document Mr. Pearson struck a terrific blow at the whole technique of the secret police system.

In the document improperly published by Attorney-General Brownell the head of the FBI was shown as writing letters to the White House to try to block the appointment to a high international post of the man Harry Dexter White.

But in this letter a "high Canadian government source" is shown as sending secret messages to J. Edgar Hoover to the effect that Mr. Harry Dexter White was known to the government of Canada as a spy. The self-contradictory nature of the information in the letter is shown by the fact that later in the same letter this same "high Canadian government source" is said to be contemplating recommending the same spy as the head of the International Monetary Fund.

In other words Mr. Hoover's secret letter to President Truman boiled down to this:

In one sentence the Canadian government was supposed to be warning the U.S.A. that Harry Dexter White was a spy. But in a few sentences lower down the same Canadian government was supposed to be warning the U.S.A. that they were about to nominate the same alleged spy as the head of the International Monetary Fund.

AS MR. PEARSON showed no "high Canadian source" ever sent any such warning. No Canadian government ever contemplated recommending Mr. White for any job whatsoever. No Canadian sent any warning to the FBI about Mr. White.

What actually happened was that a security officer of another country (presumably Britain) queried the FBI in a routine way whether the man Harry Dexter White, about whom the FBI themselves were making inquiries in Canada was the same man who was being considered for the international monetary job.

CANADA has done whatever was in her power to deflate the whole recent, silly and unnecessary controversy.

But in doing so Canada revealed the utter iniquity and tyranny of the whole process known as McCarthyism.

For if even the FBI could make such glaring mistakes as to basic facts about such a high placed official as Mr. White, how many more Americans in less exalted positions have been thrown out of their jobs, or otherwise persecuted, on equally inaccurate, and equally secret, testimony which they never even knew was given, much less had the chance to answer?



DONALD C. MACDONALD, 39-year-old national organizer and treasurer of the CCF has been chosen leader of the party in Ontario. A former newspaper man and school teacher, he succeeds E. B. Jolliffe, retired provincial leader in the \$9,000-a-year post. A native of British Columbia, Mr. MacDonald was raised on a farm in Quebec. He worked for the Montreal Gazette at one time and has been a full-time CCF worker since 1946. He is shown with his wife after the election.

Report From PARLIAMENT

E. T. APPLEWHAITE

The subjects of greatest interest last week here have been the Igor Gouzenko and Harry Dexter White cases, both of which have been blown up to a far greater apparent importance than either of them justifies. One thing is apparent, Gouzenko did not ask to go before any American Committee. These questions first came up in the House on November 18th, when John Diefenbaker asked the Prime Minister if a second request for Gouzenko had been received from the U.S. The PM replied that it was not to his knowledge that any further requests had been made but he would check with External Affairs. Diefenbaker said it was a press despatch from Washington. Mr. St. Laurent said he knew that, but there are frequently in newspapers despatches for which there is no justification in the departmental offices, and Diefenbaker said he realized that.

The following day "Mike" Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, confirmed that up to that time no further request had been received. He told us that, as was public knowledge, the government on October 29 received a request from the United States government transmitting a request from Mr. Robert Morris, Counsel for the United States Senate internal security sub-committee, to interview Igor Gouzenko in this country. Gouzenko, had denied having any further information and repudiated the newspaper story which started the whole matter, so the Canadian government considered that the reason's for Mr. Morris' request to interview Mr. Gouzenko had disappeared, having been based on a misunderstanding of the position.

A day after that Diefenbaker asked the Prime Minister about the reports linking Canada with Harry Dexter White. Mr. St. Laurent said that as he read the report he understood the reference was to a letter from J. E. Hoover, and the PM knew nothing about the existence of such a letter until he saw the report in the newspapers. The government had not discovered anything that would enable them to trace any such communication.

MORE INFORMATION

The next day—that was November 19—Diefenbaker asked Pearson if there was more information about Gouzenko. Pearson replied he could only say in reply to the question that notwithstanding press reports to the contrary, no second request had yet (November 19) been made to the Canadian government.

Later one was made and replied to, as has been fully detailed in both press and radio. On November 25, Pearson made a full and detailed statement in the House and on the air. It would do any Canadian's heart good to see how the House supported Mike Pearson. George Drew and M. J. Coldwell were

particularly emphatic and definite in placing their parties solidly behind the Canadian government. Canada sticks together when any attacks threaten from outside.

I suppose everyone interested will have seen the press release to the effect that the Cabinet has reached "agreement in principle" and approved the sale of the Dominion Telegraph and Telephone facilities in B.C. The Canadian National Telegraph Company and the B.C. Telephone Company will each pay three-quarters of a million dollars for the respective facilities.

IMPROVED SERVICE

Details are still to be worked out before the transfer can become effective. I believe this will result in really improved services for the people of the parts of Skeena concerned. It will, of course, be my duty to see that everything possible is done to assume full protection for all present employees of the services, and for all present users of the services.

While the negotiations for a Japanese-Canadian trade agreement are proceeding, powerful interests in this country are telling the Canadian people that cheap foreign goods will undermine the nation's living standards. Typical of this propaganda is a recent statement by Mr. Emile Pieve, international president of the Textile Workers' union of America, who said recently in Hamilton that a reduc-

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. Macdonald

The St. Laurent government is engaged in an experiment in trade treaty negotiations that could have results of the highest importance and interest, not only for this country but also for nations generally.

It has drafted a new trade treaty with Japan. But before it ratifies it, it is insisting that Japan sign a "gentleman's agreement" not to use the tariff concessions in the new trade pact to compete unfairly with Canadian industry.

The idea of having a trade treaty mean something less than its actual terms is a new one in international diplomacy. But if it works out, it could furnish the pattern for similar deals amongst nations anywhere who are unable to get together in the interests of freer international trade because of the fear of excessive damage to their domestic industries. If the St. Laurent government has worked out a formula for compromise between the ideal of freer world trade and the practical claims of domestic industry to protection, its plan may have far-reaching importance.

The industries for whose safety the federal government is particularly concerned include the textile industry, the electrical appliances industry, the toy industry, the pottery industry, and the photographic industry.

As a concrete example of the sort of competition which the "gentleman's agreement" will seek to prevent, a cabinet source cites a household electric iron which the Canadian electrical appliances industry puts on the market at around \$12. Japan is said to be ready to sell a similar article to the Canadian housewife at \$2.50—a price which would not meet Canadian wage costs, let alone the costs of manufacturing.

LETTERBOX

WANTS ACTION

The Editor,
The Daily News.

I notice that the police are going to crack down on traffic violators. Why don't they enforce the parking bylaw?

It is positively dangerous the way cars are allowed to park all night on some of our narrow, much-travelled streets. There are places, especially on a hill, where one can count up to six cars parked in a line, with never a parking light on.

Just what is going to happen when we get ice and snow conditions?

We pay taxes to use these streets to drive on, not for some shiftless car owners to park their cars on, to the danger of the general public.

It's about time there was some action taken before someone gets hurt.

If this section of the bylaw is cancelled, please state so in the public press.

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T. M. (Tom) CHRISTIE

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Phone 384

SAVE IT NOW... LET IT GROW... ENJOY IT LATER...

WORKERS!

- The IWA strike in the Interior lumber industry is now a fight for the right to organize and bargain collectively.
- The employers intend to break the strike by the use of strike-breakers, and throw the IWA strikers on the bread line.

THE FACTS ARE:—

1. For two years, Conciliation Boards have recommended better contract terms as necessary and possible. These have been rejected by the employers.
2. The employers threatened lock-outs to force the lumber workers to accept the 1951 contract terms, with a base rate \$1.52 a day less than is paid at the coast.
3. The employers have refused to mediate the strike issues, hoping to starve the strikers into surrender.

Back the Strikers

- The IWA can and will finance its picket lines for another six months, if necessary.
- The entire trade union movement in Canada is behind the strike. Get in step.

Don't be a Scab

- Workers are warned against accepting employment offers as strike-breakers.
- Strike-breakers will be named throughout the unions in the Canadian West as "scabs".
- A victory for the IWA strikers is a victory for all the Interior workers.

SCABS KEEP AWAY

IWA Strike Committee 45 Kingsway, Vancouver, B.C.

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