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Unfair Abuse

IN THIS MATTER of choosing between Algoma and Roosevelt parks for future development, it seems to us that the opinion of the parks board deserves more respect than it has received from some quarters. One almost gathers from the remarks of critics that members of the board must have an ulterior motive in preferring the Algoma site.

The accusation that they are ignoring the will of the people is strong stuff and carries a nasty implication that, if they are not merely lazy, they are scheming.

Of course, neither description applies. The parks board is a singularly conscientious group whose members give their time without charge to do what they can for the improvement of our recreational facilities. If their preference lies with Almoga Park, that is a choice which at least deserves better treatment than being hurled back in their teeth. Who else has given the question so much careful study?

There is one point in their argument which requires more emphasis than it has received. The Algoma Park area is suitable for sanitary landfill which would assist not only in developing the grounds but in disposing of garbage which now feeds rats at the city dump.

The idea of garbage under park grounds may sound alarming, but it has been established that there is no unpleasantness or danger to health involved. In 1939 the U.S. public health service, having investigated this method of handling garbage, actually recommended that cities and towns adopt it as a sanitary measure.

No one is qualified to say whether the choice of Almoga Park as the city's principal playground is definitely right or definitely wrong. Moreover, the public's vote in the civic elections next month will not make the decision final one way or another.

But it is right that the voters should be heard, and we think it is right also that the parks board should be credited with some sense in reaching its conclusion.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Sign in pawnshop: "Learn the true value of money—Try to borrow a few bucks."

Japanese railway engineers are not at all uncertain or indefinite in economic disputes. A pay raise being urgently needed, they turned to their locomotives in Japan the other day. For a full minute they blew the whistles of five thousand engines. In other words, the Japs just had to let off steam.

OF COURSE

There is something about the approach of St. Andrew's Day had somehow cheers you up. It must be the music. For, as you surely realize, there's music and music. Need more be said? But of course, there's others.

Until 1914 great wars were practically unheard of. Lord knows there was blood shed—the Crimean, the Mutinies, American Civil, China, Franco-German, South Africa, American-Spanish, and a flock of lesser conflicts.

KEEPING IT IN MIND

But today, how woefully different. Oh, yes, we pray and struggle for this precious peace, yet rising over all else broods the war instinct. We salute the UN as once we did the futile League of Nations. There are millions of young people whose thoughts cannot go further back than 1914, because they did not exist. Since then, life

has been tinged with thoughts of the consequences. And it's pretty well known or should be.

We've getting to know a lot about Jamaica, and must go see sometime, but of course somebody will be a bit late to catch the Queen. Anyway, Jamaica was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1494, and for about three centuries has been a British possession. The island, with its heat and hot weather, enchanting natural beauty, and a million and a half people is a lot in the public eye. Jamaica is in the Caribbean Sea where one understands the word "blue." You never see it up north. One only thinks so?

The Library Board of Vancouver inquires why people are reading more, as well as why more are reading. For the first time, total circulation has passed beyond 200,000. It's 213,153. Why? Nobody seems to know. Library staff members are rushed and there is nothing to indicate an easing off of strenuous days. Prince Rupert already knows what familiarity with books can do; Vancouver must have found out about it earlier.

Letter carrying is getting down to regular routine in Prince Rupert. And we know of a man who is willing to wager that half of the letters begin with the words: Dear . . . Things are about the same in . . .

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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

• Woodsworth Book

MY WIFE and I are counting the days till we get in our own Ottawa apartment.

Meanwhile we are finding our way around the parliamentary job.

The people in charge have been most considerate to me. They have even given me a room all to myself, on the ground floor at the foot of the Peace Tower (with the lady senators).

I hasten to add; they did this, not because the freshman MP from Vancouver South has special pull, but because my erstwhile roommate, Mayor Arthur White of Galt, Ontario, found my activities too much for his peace of mind.

Every day I write this column from inside the office. I also record three broadcasts per week inside my room. That made it a bit tough for another MP in the same room who was trying to see a deputation or dictate a speech.

LAST Saturday I read Grace Woodsworth MacInnes' new book about her great father, the late J. S. Woodsworth.

It is a warm and, in many ways, moving family story. It does not deal in much detail with the political highlights of the career of J. S. Woodsworth. But it does sketch them in clear outline, and in such a way that the reader understands why J.S.W. took the particular line of action that he did take.

There is the rather poignant section about Woodsworth's growing determination to resign from the ministry of the Methodist Church, in which his father and grandfather before him had been pillars.

But we see the church determined not to let J.S. go—and bending over backwards to let him remain, true to his own conscience, but with the blessing of the church, too, even on his growing unorthodoxy.

In one sense, that was the key to the whole life story of J. S. Woodsworth, as told by his daughter Grace. Her father was always trying to break with

some institution he loved with one side of his heart. But first with the church, then with his unique job financed by three provincial governments, and finally with the CCF, which he founded, he met the same difficulty.

The whole book breathes the spirit of reverence and admiration which the daughter had for the father.

She tries desperately hard to paint her father "warts and all" as Cromwell ordered his own portrait.

She shows that there was a glaring contradiction in the thinking of her father on questions of war and peace.

He was a passionate isolationist and pacifist. Yet the whole implication of his fierce hatred of fascism and tyranny was to line up his own part, the CCF and all the rest of Canada in the war to defeat Hitler.

THERE are touching family chapters, such as that where little Grace runs out into the woods of B.C. and hides her father's papers when he is arrested at Winnipeg.

There is the "trial" of her mother, charged with being an unfit schoolteacher, because of the radical activities of her husband.

There is the last scene where the family consigns the ashes of the beloved husband and father to the sea waters of B.C.

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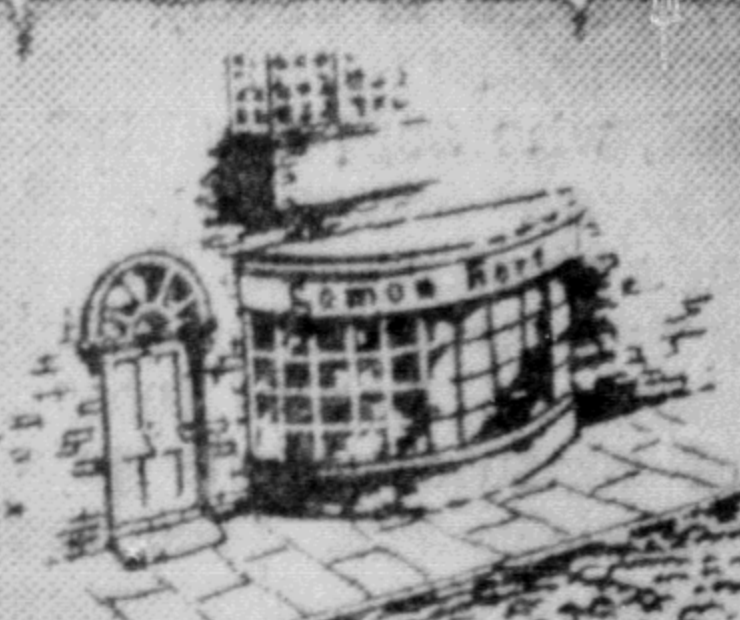
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European Countries Only Nibble At Offer of Surplus Farm Produce

LONDON (Reuters) — Western Europe so far has refused to take more than a nibble of a United States offer of \$130,000,000 worth of surplus farm produce.

Britain has agreed to buy \$20,000,000 worth of tobacco; West Germany has accepted an outright gift of \$15,000,000 of soybeans and tobacco. That is all.

Principal reasons for the lukewarm reaction are:

• European countries cannot afford extra imports, even using their own currency. The terms of the offer stipulate that the produce must not be used to replace existing trade agreements.

• What some Europeans term "dumping" of American surpluses in Europe might throw the entire European market out of balance and seriously hurt producing countries.

Under the offer, designed to cut down United States surpluses, non-Communist countries

can pay for the produce with their own currency. The money then would be used for the U.S. foreign aid program.

The general European reaction was summed up by Holland's agriculture minister, Sicco Mansholt, who said: "To accept the offer would mean either cutting down food imports from abroad or increasing home consumption. We are not prepared to do either."

Most of the European countries which have been offered surplus stocks are anxious not to harm their own contracts with other producers or their own markets.

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