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A Note of Urgency

WHILE the subject of an airport for Prince Rupert still rates headlines, however tragic the cause, it is necessary to express a warning that this is something we cannot afford to forget or lose sight of among other topics as soon as the clamor has died.

Everyone is pleased that Transport Minister Chevrier replied so definitely to the query of our member, E. T. Applewhaite, about the government's plan in this respect. Although the cause of Monday's accident in the harbor remains to be determined, it is possible, as Mr. Applewhaite said, that the disaster would have never occurred if aircraft serving Prince Rupert did not depend on water-landing facilities. We are confident that the government is impressed with this point and is as anxious as we are to see it remedied.

At the same time, it should be observed that the government's intention to investigate feasibility of an airport here through an on-the-spot survey has been known to this city for some time. Expenditure of \$50,000 for this purpose was approved early in the year, and from that it was concluded that an airport would be built if conditions warranted.

What we deduce from the latest announcement, therefore, is that a note of urgency has been added. If this deduction is correct, there is cause for rejoicing—although not for relaxing our vigil.

The campaign for a Prince Rupert airport goes back far into the years. Since it started, so many smaller and less strategically located communities have been furnished with paved runways that Prince Rupert, without a runway of any description, has become a pathetic oddity in comparison as a transportation centre.

While it is natural that we should have felt disappointed in our fate for local reasons, the benefits of such a project actually make our own little interests look like a minor consideration. Here is a place which flights from the north, south and west can approach over water, thus giving them a much greater margin of safety than is usually found in this part of the country. Eastwards there is a natural route for connection with the major air centre of Edmonton. Add to these factors the growing populace of the Prince Rupert district and accessibility to widely-flung Pacific points, and the total advantages come to plenty plus.

For these reasons, and with sharp awareness of Monday's terrible occurrence, we read in Mr. Chevrier's words an assurance there will be complete and immediate action. The case is so strong that no other interpretation makes sense.

Scripture Passage for Today

"I will glorify thy name for evermore."—Psalm 68:12.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

In Albert's Ottawa oasis, a Parliamentarian is a Parliamentarian. That is to say, he's a person of importance to be treated with becoming consideration. He doesn't have to be a Cabinet Minister or even a star solo performer in House debates to get comforting recognition.

That's one reason the atmosphere in Albert's is so intimate and homey. Rarely do Cabinet Ministers come in to make it stuffy. Rather is it the rendezvous of the MPs who are conscious of the contrast between the majestic vastness of the House of Commons and the limited nature of their own oratorical prowess. Being desirous of expressing themselves somewhere, Albert's seems to them an appropriate place. So if you're in a listening mood, you're apt to hear a lot of common-sense spoken about a variety of important topics.

For instance, there was the back-bench Liberal MP who thought the Washington trip of the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Pearson a sheer waste of valuable ministerial time and less valuable public money.

"They're trying to argue with Washington," the Liberal said, "that the NATO Treaty has economic co-operation clauses in it which the trade restrictive policies of Congress are violating. Everyone knows—or should know—that the economic clauses were only put into NATO as window-dressing. Pearson said that they had to be added because

otherwise Canadians might regard the treaty as purely military in its commitments and purposes and perhaps be suspicious of it. United States therefore agreed to the clauses simply as a public relations device aimed at capturing the support of Canadian opinion.

"Yet now Canada wants Congress to accept the clauses as tying its hands in the matter of tariff action," a sympathetic Conservative MP commented.

The Liberal MP continued, "Only the most naive schoolboy," he said, "would dream of being able to put over anything so preposterous to Congress. The truth is that NATO is a military and defence alliance only. The sooner we stop trying to make it more than that, the sooner we conserve our energies and avoid disappointments."

The Conservative MP agreed and added a rhetorical flourish. "Trying to maintain that the economic clauses of NATO mean anything binding on U.S. sovereignty," he said, "is as hopeless as getting Albert here to give you a bottle of milk to take home so your wife will think you've been spending the evening in a dairy."

The Liberal MP pondered the illustration carefully, accepted it finally as relevant, and proceeded to develop it. "As a matter of fact," he said, "it's camouflage. And camouflage is something you're always better off without. It's something more to explain—and it's liable to lead to just more argument."

As I See It

by



Elmore Philpott

IN EARLIER articles I showed that one main Social Credit proposal is to set up total "Just Price Fixing."

Under Social Credit's "Just Price" all goods would be sold in stores at a fraction of their cost price—approximately 40 per cent of cost of production. The difference (60 per cent) would be made up by issues of Social Credit cheque-book money. The Financial Controller would be, according to the Social Creditists, above parliament, and not subject to parliamentary control or removal. I reasoned that it would take a vast army of police-state bureaucrats to maintain the "Just Price" fixed by the Controller.

BUT AN EQUALLY unsound proposal is the Social National Dividend which would be issued to every person in the country.

Social Credit theorists distinctly state that this dividend would be sufficient for everybody to live on—whether or not that person chose to work.

W. A. Tuttle says on page 237 of "Douglas Social Credit for Canada":

"It is frequently suggested that if you provide the entire population with the National Dividend and as a result of rapid economic progress the Dividend proves enough to provide at least a reasonable level of subsistence without being augmented from other sources that a majority of the population would refuse to work. There are two apparent reasons advanced to support this idea:

"1. That money for nothing demoralizes the recipient; 2. That the average man would rather spend his time in idleness than any useful occupation. "It is strange that nearly everyone who offers these so-called reasons refers in point of fact to his neighbor, and never to himself."

WHAT LOGGER will leave his wife or girl friend, and go hundreds of miles into the bush working in all kinds of weather, and keep on doing that job merely for love of work?

Why should the logger, miner, ditch-digger, bus-driver work if he could live at home in comfort with nothing harder to do than carry his "National Dividend" down to the bank for the money?

I know painters who will keep on painting, living on crusts in an attic—who would rather die than not paint. I know some musicians who feel the same way—a few artists of all types—and people who crave public recognition, like politicians or preachers.

But I do not know of a single coal miner or any other kind of miner who would willingly spend his life underground—if he could live without working—just by cashing in the Social Credit National Dividend. People only do the hardest, dirtiest work under compulsion.

I DON'T THINK the reporters or editors of this paper would turn up at the crack of dawn to work if those fabulous Social Credit dividends would keep their families without working.

Also, what would happen if the postman suddenly said to himself: "Why should I wear myself out carrying around these National Dividend cheques to that lazy ex-logger now lying at home in bed? Why should I be the only one to bet bunnies on my feet?"

THERE is much good in some of the main arguments made by Social Credit theorists against the present system. But their "practical" proposals are so fantastically foolish that in my opinion they would lead to outright and swift disaster if attempted.

Both in Russia and Germany deliberate monetary inflation was the instrument used to pave the way for dictatorship. In my opinion that would be the sure result of Social Credit, too.

Thanking You...

May I take the opportunity of thanking my many friends for their past patronage on the occasion of my leaving, and on this occasion I take pleasure in introducing my successor, Mr. Keith H. Tucker.

Sydney Gonick
Optometrist



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, shown in the uniform of a lieutenant-commander of the royal navy, made a strong first impression on Princess Elizabeth by stowing away a plate of shrimps and a banana split. It happened in 1939 at Dartmouth Royal Naval College. Elizabeth, then 13, and Philip, an 18-year-old cadet, met in the captain's home near the college. The romance bloomed sometime later.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Totem poles at Prince Rupert are said to be as sound as ever. We always have had the idea the first century is the hardest.

It's been customary for book-lovers at Prince Rupert to pay a modest fine when late with returning a volume, which is something quite reasonable and to be expected. Yet there is no occasion to worry. After seven years, a Vancouver borrower has been heard from. It was, you see, merely found. That's different.

IF POSSIBLE

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, continues to urge less credit in Canada and by this he means both wholesale and retail. We cannot do any better, Mr. Abbott says, than cultivate the saving habit.

Wearing the crown is no sine-

THE LETTERBOX

POWER AVAILABLE

The Editor,
The Daily News:

We note a statement in your paper yesterday which would infer that there exists a lack of available power supply on Digby Island for the purposes of a landing field.

May we please point out that during the last war, this company supplied power to military installations on Digby Island, having possibly the same power requirement as would be necessary for a landing field.

This capacity is still available, and we would ask you to assure your readers that this company would be able to supply in full, the power requirements of any landing field which might be constructed on Digby Island.

The wireless station and all Department of Transport buildings on Digby are at present supplied with power by this company, but as the existing power lines in this location are situated on Department of Transport property and are the property of said department, including the sub-marine supply cable, it is not possible to utilize them for supply to the community of Dodge Cove.

However, they would be available for an airport or could be enlarged if necessary and no difficulty is anticipated in supplying the needs of such an installation.

T. B. BLACK,
General Manager,
Northern B.C. Power Co.

Parliament Hill

By GEORGE M. MURRAY, M.P., Cariboo

OTTAWA—As Canada's twenty-first Parliament neared its end, the Coronation of Elizabeth II began to draw loyal Canadians towards London. The Prime Minister and his wife will lead the contingent from Ottawa.

It has been a busy week for Prime Minister St. Laurent. Before departing for London and the crowning of his sovereign, he made a quick journey to a conference with President Eisenhower.

The St. Laurent-Eisenhower meeting may have resulted in shaping the trade pattern of Canada for the next decade. It was more important, in terms of world commercial interest, than any other international conference in many years.

The Prime Minister did not announce a date for the general elections in Canada, but he drew from the Washington conference what may be his chief plank in the platform which he will place before the Canadian people some time later this year of 1953.

He briefly stated that plank will be one of extending opportunity for world trade for Canada and the freeing of trade blocks the world around. He will likely announce a reciprocity agreement with the Americans as an important part of the Canadian policy.

He believes that the more than 14,000,000 people who live north of the 49th parallel can do business daily with the 158,000,000 Americans who reside to the south.

"We now have an annual trade between Canada and the U.S.A. larger than that between any other two nations in the world," he told Parliament upon his return from Washington and the Eisenhower talks. "It must continue that way."

It was probably Jimmie Byrne, the miner MP from East Kootenay, B.C., who inspired the Prime Minister with the idea of visiting Washington to discuss trade matters.

It was Jimmie who noticed some weeks ago that certain U.S.A. senators were working up a case for a USA embargo against zinc and lead from outside the land of Uncle Sam. Jimmie Byrne told Parliament just what that would mean to the Kootenay country—close down half its mines. It was vicious, he said, to suggest such a thing.

If the USA did that to us then we should hike up an export embargo on our Canadian nickel, asbestos, cobalt, uranium and other metals and minerals vital to Uncle Sam's economy and imported by the Americans in vast quantities from Canada.

The Jimmie Byrne speech was widely published in the American press. It was the spark which could have set off a violent conflagration between Canada and the USA. "Uncle Louis" proceeded to put out that spark.

Prime Minister St. Laurent spent two days with the President and when he got back to report to Parliament, he had a story to tell which delighted the members from all parties.

There would be no embargo business between the countries over metals and, particularly, metals vital to defence.

A joint international committee is to be set up to discuss economic problems between the two countries just as we now have a joint defence committee.

The USA agrees to continue the present reciprocity plan for one more year.

Peace River people will be delighted to hear that import of

Peace River natural gas into the Northwestern States was discussed and agreement reached that was satisfactory to both statesmen.

Speeding up of American action regarding the St. Lawrence Seaway project is one of the big achievements of the conference. Always envisaged as a joint undertaking, the Prime Minister reported the chief importance of which is the strengthening of the defence of both nations.

"Our trade relations with the USA and with the rest of the world can be our greatest security," the Prime Minister told us. "Division and the blocking of trade channels between free nations can win for our adversaries a bloodless war."

As for the new look presented by the USSR to the world, the Prime Minister reported that there was no likelihood of the free nations being deceived. "If the Russians are sincere, then they can very well pack up fair words with fair deeds," said the Canadian statesman, "and we in Canada will be the first to applaud their actions towards world peace."

The very thought of higher American tariffs causes a shudder to run up and down the backs of residents at Prince Rupert, who know that it would be an end to the prosperous times enjoyed by the fishing industry on the North Pacific.

Higher United States tariffs might also close down the cellulose plant at Prince Rupert and lay off many hundreds of employees.

Higher United States tariffs would be a severe blow to the pulp and paper industry throughout Canada, but more especially to the flourishing branch of that industry in British Columbia, where thousands of people are employed.

The very fact of the US keeping our dairy products from entering their markets, has already brought havoc to many eastern and middle western dairymen. Similarly, the closing of the United States market to cattle would hurt every rancher in the business from one end of Canada to the other.

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