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## Support Our Scouts

**T**HIS MONTH—February 22nd to be exact—is the anniversary of the birth of Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, first baron of Gilwell. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements which he and his sister Agnes founded in 1908 and 1910, respectively, and which were adopted in many countries of the world are living and growing memorials to this great man. In our city, as in any town of reasonable size in Canada, and throughout the world, our youngsters in the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides can work and play at learning the good citizenship and friendship that they so easily frown upon when presented by mere parents.

The Prince Rupert Boy Scout Association has reached the half-way point in gaining its objective of \$2500, but the whole of this amount will be needed to carry on their useful work for another year. It is natural that all parents would want to support an organization designed to develop in their children self-reliance, thoughtfulness for others and responsibility. Let us all take this opportunity to do so in a concrete, substantial way.

The First St. Andrews Company of Girl Guides has hit upon a novel way to finance its coming year of training. Tickets are now on sale for their first Annual International Dinner which will be held in the St. Andrew's Cathedral Hall next Saturday, February 13th. This promises to be the gourmets' delight of the year, as we are to be served dishes of many nationalities by smiling, courteous Girl Guides.

Busy teen-agers if given the financial support they require, need never experience the idleness which would make it difficult to obey the law which says—A Scout (or Guide) is pure in thought, in word and in deed.

## Keep The Drydock Here

**T**HE drydock issue is still very much alive. Our problem is not only to keep the plant in operation but to put it to profitable use.

It appears that the government has set its mind to sell the facilities because, Transport Minister Chevrier says, work carried out by the drydock in the latter years does not warrant expenditure of public funds for substantial annual deficits and the very large expenditure to rehabilitate the plant and equipment.

While we know it would be costly to modernize the plant, from a defence angle alone, the drydock should be retained.

If the government could see fit to keep it going all through the early days of this city and in particular during the depression, surely a way can be seen to keep it now.

Based on what is in sight, we believe the dock could be put to profitable use by diverting some of the naval jobs from Esquimalt, the government doing recondition work on its own boats stationed in this vicinity, and the CNR putting its boats into drydock here instead of sending everything to Vancouver.

Ottawa recently appropriated \$500,000 to increase facilities at Esquimalt. Why not spend a few thousand here?

In another recent move, the naval department gave yards in the south a \$4 million job to recondition two cruisers. This indicates that Esquimalt is unable to do the job.

The Chamber of Commerce is to be praised for spearheading the protest against sale of the dock without making it obligatory that the buyer continue to operate present facilities.

## Early Start On PGE Pledged

**NORTH VANCOUVER (CP)**—A Board of Trade delegation reported Friday that Premier Bennett has promised them "an immediate start" on the Squamish-North Vancouver extension to the Pacific Great Eastern railway.

And at a press conference, Reeve Hugo Ray of West Vancouver demanded that the premier reveal his economic reasons for completion of the PGE through residential West Vancouver. "If he has any."

He also asked for an independent economic survey to decide whether the extension is economically practical from a province-wide standpoint.

William Ged, an Edinburgh goldsmith, patented a stereotyping machine in 1725.

## As I See It



by  
Elmore  
Philbott

### How Laws Are Made

**A PENSIONER** with Irish ancestors writes me some tips on how to get parliament to vote for more generous allowances for WVA and Old Age Pensioners.

"Simply get up in parliament, wave your canes, call for order."

It would be wonderful if it were all as simple as that. But our laws are not made that way. Believe me, the Queen is not dead when it comes to making law. The Crown is not merely a decoration. It is still the actual core of our whole law-making system.

At the top of every bill, which is to be considered by parliament, for acceptance or rejection as a law, it states:

"Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:"

The average citizen imagines that our system of democracy works something like this. Citizens form political parties, to advance certain programs, which the rank and file members decide, and change with changing times and needs. They nominate candidates to run for parliament. If they elect more than half the membership of the House of Commons, their party is called on to form the government. Then a private meeting, or caucus, of the elected MP's decides the parliamentary program of the party. That program is finally brought out on the floor of the House, debated, passed and sent on to the Senate.

Finally, and only as a matter of form it is signed by the Governor General, and so becomes the law of the land.

ACTUALLY we get our laws by a very different process. All the important original decisions are made in the cabinet. The proposed policies are all threshed out, in strict secrecy, in the cabinet before they are ever brought into parliament at all.

Also—and this is perhaps the most important point of all—the control which the party caucus exercises over its own leaders comes after and not before the important policy decisions are made.

THE most important fact about our constitutional system is that no private MP can initiate a bill in the House of Commons if that bill involves the spending of money.

In this respect our British system of government is entirely different from the American, where any Congressman can introduce a bill to impose a tax, or to spend money.

Of course, the above does not mean that the private MP has no effect. Here is a simple example of how things work out:

For about ten years past, a lone French-Canadian MP has spoken time after time in the House in favor of allowances for crippled and disabled persons. Legally, he had no power to move to enact that recommendation into law.

But this year the cabinet decided to recommend to parliament that the disabled grants be made—exactly as the lone MP had demanded.

## Man Remanded On Cheque Count

**JAMES M. ADKINS**, of Prince Rupert was remanded for eight days or less when he appeared before Magistrate W. D. Vance in police court Friday. Adkins was charged with obtaining goods by false pretences or buying groceries by means of a worthless cheque.

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Children's Party at the Kremlin  
By BILL BOSS  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

**MOSCOW**—Children's parties at the Kremlin were a feature of the New Year season in Moscow this year.

Parties for the boys and girls, in the Hall of the Trade Unions, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, the palaces of culture, schools and factories, are customary during the first two weeks of the year, but this year, for the first time, the Kremlin, too, was opened to the youngsters.

There, for eight days, 4,000 children a day laughed and chattered in the halls of the Kremlin, danced, applauded acts from Moscow's major theatres and peeled oranges on brocade benches used for centuries by the aristocracy of Imperial Russia.

They paid five rubles (\$1.25) each for this privilege. Those attending the Kremlin parties were told to make the most of the opportunity, to walk around and take in its sights. Guides in each of the main rooms pointed out the main features and told the children about them.

To a Canadian it seemed strange that so much should be made of opening up the "parliament buildings" to the people. The Parliament buildings in Ottawa or any provincial capital can be visited any day, by anyone.

There was music everywhere, from two or three accordions in the banquet room of the Granovite Palace to small orchestras in other rooms.

## OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

**OTTAWA**—Last week when the House of Commons was debating the government's housing legislation the Public Gallery—that is, the North Gallery to which the general public is admitted without any formality of ticket—was crowded for every sitting.

This week, when the House was debating the increased indemnities for MP's and Senators, the public gallery was occupied at one sitting by a single lone individual, and at no time did attendance run above a dozen.

As a matter of fact, right from the time of the introduction of the legislation, the proposal to raise the pay of the MP's and Senators has drawn smaller galleries than normally watch even one of the chamber's minor debates. The phenomenon has been so marked that parliamentary circles have been led to debate its significance—the general assumption being that it has some significance.

In the view of the MP's the fact that the public is staying away from the salary debate in large throngs is re-assuring. They argue that the pathy of the public towards the legislation indicates general acceptance of its principle.

Yet Parliament observers aren't too convinced of the soundness of this argument. In their experience they've never known the public to manifest its enthusiasm for legislation by staying away from its passage.

The party in the House that has been finding it hardest to make up its mind about the pay boost is the Conservative. If Leader George Drew has been appearing to be doing a skilful balancing act on the measure—talking sometimes for it and sometimes against it—it has been because his followers have been very much of two minds about it. A special caucus held as recently as a couple of days ago revealed a hard core in the group who believed that the legislation should be opposed. But these individuals were looked upon as eccentric and im-

## Ray Reflects and Reminisces

About 800 men in the service of the Canadian National Railways are being laid off, but with this announcement comes assurance that all will be rehired before unemployment becomes tiresome. Jasper Park is to be opened early, if June 4 can be called that. Jobs usually have a way of returning.

### SPEAKING OF BOMBS AND ATOMS

Atoms are so small that if a drop of water were magnified to the size of the earth, the atoms in the drop would be smaller than oranges. So says the statistician W. L. Laurence. But it does not follow you are under compulsion to believe it.

A \$30,000 diamond robbery happened in a New Westminster shop during the week-end. The display window was smashed. A few of the jewels were dropped during the dash to the waiting car. Prince Rupert can remember something like this, when early on a Sunday Sabbath in the second world war, the late John Bulger experienced losses. Along came the car, someone sent a boulder crashing through the window, and next second there was a case of speeding on Third avenue.

"Penny Wise" Caldwell of the Vancouver Sun staff is touring South America and will send descriptive stories. She has already declared Argentina the continent's most civilized country. There may yet be something to the rumor that shortly after the end of the second great war, Adolph Hitler fled to Buenos Aires.

Has anyone ever tried to make it appear that Prince Rupert, and not Vancouver is the Prince Rupert's home port. Hasn't it always been like that? This is a CNR city but must not be thought of as actually belonging in the north, because it isn't "home." Indeed.

Premier Bennett admits cabinet ministers and MLA's do not receive sufficient indemnity. But this, he has made positively clear, has nothing to do with British Columbia. Anyway, not just yet.

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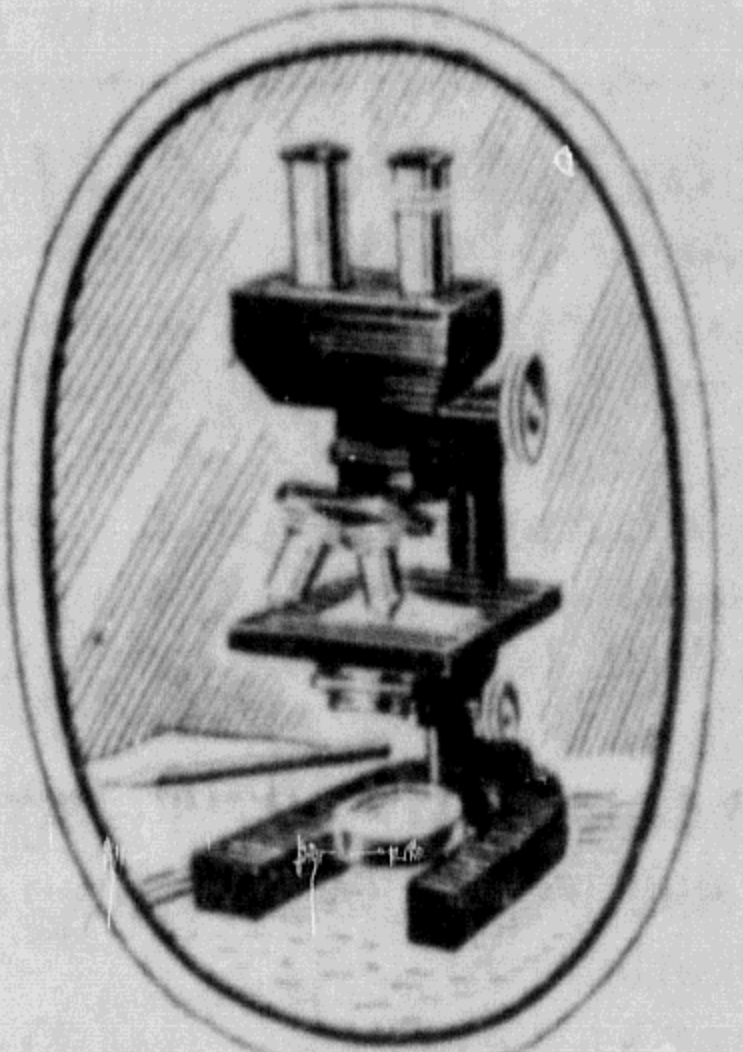
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You see, certain important medical research projects are supported wholly or in part by all the life insurance companies in Canada—millions of policyholders. As a result, skilled in many Canadian medical research centres on their task of attacking some of mankind's enemies. Their names: cancer, heart ailments, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis.

Other vital studies are supported in a similar way. These focus on processes of ageing, cellular hygiene, pregnancy complications, hormones, blood clotting and asthma, to mention a few.

Will all these efforts help you and your family live longer, healthier lives?

Yes! Thanks chiefly to the advance of medicine, babies born today can expect to live 20 years longer than those of 50 years ago. Dread diseases have been banished or controlled. Ahead lies further progress that will surely benefit you and yours.

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