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Farewell, Faint Hearts

DURING the past dozen years most communities in Central B.C. and along the CNR north line have enjoyed an unprecedented period of prosperity. From Prince Rupert east to the Alberta border and south along the Fraser River to Williams Lake old-timers and newcomers alike have basked in the glow of an expanding economy.

The future is as bright as the past, notwithstanding the current lumber strike which has brought production to a virtual standstill and is throttling the livelihood of thousands of wage-earners.

Businessmen are worried, too. But not the country's pioneers who were conditioned to the present state of affairs by the adversities and disappointments of the first post-war depression and the "hungry thirties."

The newest crop of pessimists will have to look elsewhere for company and consolation. The men and women who pioneered this country, and their sons and daughters, know that our bountiful natural resources have barely been scratched; that contemplated gasoline, hydro-electric and pulp mill projects will, within the next decade, usher in a new era of prosperity that will dwarf the post-war lumber boom and attract investment funds from the business capitals of the North American continent.

The strike will come to an end sooner or later, and the stalled timber industry will again roll forward, probably at a reduced rate. Mists of gloom will evaporate, "business as usual" will again be the slogan, and the country may prove to have been benefited rather than harmed by the temporary business setback.

Regardless of the duration of the strike, one good purpose will have been served. It will have demonstrated in a ruthless but effective manner how much we have to depend on the lumber industry for our well-being and happiness.

There is no diversity in our economy. All our eggs are in one basket, at the mercy of fluctuations in the construction industry. For this and other reasons it would be both unwise and unrealistic to think only in terms of the lumber industry in any attempt to probe the future of Central B.C.

Agriculture, mining and water-power all warrant consideration in any long-range plans for a future that will surely eclipse that of this or any other era in the history of the country.

The coming generation of business leaders and community pioneers should not be unduly influenced by the fact that at present our welfare hinges on the price of spruce two-by-fours in St. Louis or Oshkosh, N.Y.

It will not always be so.

—PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Present indications are that the St. Laurent Government is going to remain content to allow the CCF to plod along in the role assigned to them by the late Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King of being "Liberals in a hurry."

It is definite now that the Federal Government has no intention of making any legislative movement in the direction of national health insurance at the present session. But it expects that the CCF group in the Commons will continue to preach the gospel of health insurance to the House and to the country—and it is wholly agreeable that it should do so.

In fact, if the CCF group is successful in stirring up a sufficient agitation among the voting public for national health insurance, the government won't be at all above acting as it has done in the past. That is to say, it will come along and supply the legislation for which the CCF-ers have beaten the drum.

But in the case of national health insurance, the St. Laurent Government won't do it until a lot closer to election time—which at the moment appears to be a good five years away.

It was back in the middle nineteen-forties that the late Mackenzie King made his now-famous reference to CCF-ers as simply being "Liberals in a hurry." The description turned out to be less of a name than a policy. For as soon as Mr. King was satisfied that the Coldwellites had prepared public opinion for some new socialist measure, he would promptly incorporate it in the Liberal government

policy. That was the case with family allowances, universal old age pensions, pensions for the blind, and other lesser legislation. The plain truth of the matter is that no political party has had its clothes stolen so systematically by one of its rivals as have the CCF-ers by the Liberals over the past decade or more.

The situation has reached the point where Leader Coldwell is having increasing difficulty in maintaining the identity of the CCF. In Eastern Canada, where it appeared to be on the march in the early nineteen-forties, it now has become largely a spent force, due to the extent to which the Liberals have succeeded in replacing it. All signs point to the present Prime Minister continuing his predecessor's tactics. The CCF appear fated to whip up interest in national health insurance, with the Liberals coming forward at the strategic moment to gather up the votes.

The level of Canadian Well-being has been raised by the pulp and paper industry.

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As I See It



by

Elmore
Philpott

The FBI and Spy

AS I CAME into the Parliament Buildings of Canada last Friday I chuckled to note some of the evidences of elaborate care with which the life of President Eisenhower would be guarded while he was here as our guest.

Nobody ever bothers to call for a posse of secret service men or Mounties to form a bodyguard around our Prime Minister. He often walks to work alone.

The truth is that nobody in Canada gets sufficiently worked up about anything that a Canadian leader does, or does not do, to go to elaborate plans to try to shoot him.

About the only notable Canadian public man who ever was shot was George Brown, and he came to an untimely end, it is said, not because of any public issue but because of a dispute with a printer.

BUT JOKING ASIDE, there are very real and vital differences in national character between the two countries. Take this latest spy business in the States. There has been a fierce argument over whether ex-President Harry Truman should or should not have obeyed the summons of the famous McCarthy committee to be grilled as to why he did not instantly fire a man whom the secret police of the United States are supposed to have said to be a Russian spy.

But this charge itself ignores the fact that if the FBI actually did have evidence that the man in question was a spy they should have been doing something more about it than writing secret reports to the President. They should have been taking all the due processes of law to bring the accused man into court, where he could be fairly tried and either convicted or acquitted.

PRESIDENT Eisenhower's visit to Canada was obviously intended to improve relations between the two countries which are probably the friendliest of "next door neighbors" in the entire world.

To state it mildly, the relations certainly need improving, especially on such long unsettled matters as the St. Lawrence waterway.

But a far deeper cause of uneasiness about the United States is what has become known throughout the world as "McCarthyism." That term probably means a great many things to a great many people. But surely it means this to nearly all the people of the civilized world:

That McCarthyism is a new technique, combining much that is worst in the practices of the police states with what was always worst in the practices of the democracies—the demagoguery which is the inevitable part of the free-wheeling system of democracy.

IN RUSSIA now as they did in Nazi Germany, men and women hear that dreaded knock on the door in the night and they disappear to Siberia, or something worse. But in the U.S.A. if the McCarthyites get their way human beings may also have their whole lives ruined by an anonymous letter.

B.C. Pact Sought By Carpenters

VICTORIA (CP)—Negotiations on a province-wide contract between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (AFL-TLC) and Morrison Knudsen Company of Canada, Ltd., open this week in Vancouver.

The carpenters' union has not disclosed its demands but in the past it has been aiming for an hourly wage of \$2.50. Last year the wage was increased to \$2.20.

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ARCHBISHOP MAURICE ROY, chief Roman Catholic chaplain of the Canadian armed forces, chats at Quebec with Prime Minister St. Laurent before leaving for a four-week visit to Canadian forces in Korea. Mr. St. Laurent was visiting his home at Quebec.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

British Columbia has 61 week-day newspapers and an estimated 400,000 readers. And — only knows how many route boys

The Over-Seventy organization, which entertains annually in Prince Rupert as Christmas dawn, has had, to date, a happy history. Age, as well as youth, can anticipate. And it all means plenty of hard work and skill.

THE LETTERBOX

The Editor,
The Daily News.

We want responsible Civic Government, and honest as well. Now, since that is decided upon, let us see what we can do about it.

Great publicity has been given to the Non-Partisan Association which has been reorganized in Prince Rupert. I, for one, think that it is a very attractive name. Indeed, I feel I am a non-partisan myself, but if people are non-partisan why organize into a new organization? It seems to me that you are getting a new set-up of partisans right here. It has been very plainly illustrated in Vancouver where a similar organization has been running the city for quite a few years.

In Vancouver nothing has been altered since this organization came into being; all Vancouver has gained is through its favored situation on the Pacific Coast.

In this city of Prince Rupert (which is not so geographically favored) various slates have been slighted by the electorate, people here have voted on the basis of personal integrity, it will happen again.

The electoral system in our municipality is not overly democratic, thus businessmen have as many votes as they have licenses. Householders have no vote if they are not part owners of their homes, until they have paid their way. Excuses have been given by those who want to run everything such as: "Why should we let strangers come here and run our town?"

It is easy enough, under such circumstances to understand how public apathy has been created when people feel that they have nothing to do with running their city but are called upon to shoulder all expenses.

So here is one that is entering the race.

AUGUST WALLIN

[Editor's Note: No person gets more than one vote in a municipal election. If a property owner is a businessman and holds a city licence he still only has one vote. If, however, he is a director of a limited company, he may be appointed to vote for that company, but he is casting that vote for the company not for himself. No company has more than one vote. A non-property owner or householder pays a \$2 yearly fee for his voting franchise in lieu of the poll tax which has been eliminated in Prince Rupert.]

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VICTORIA REPORT

By J. K. Neill

VICTORIA—What's the betting? Will M.L.A.'s at the next session of the Legislature boost their indemnities to \$5,000 a year? Don't be surprised if it happens. They get \$3,000 a year now, and most of the 48 members are quite convinced they're being robbed.

Such salary grabs are catching. M.P.'s and Senators in Ottawa are apparently getting ready to jump their indemnities, and if they do, why, the fashion may well spread to the B.C. Legislature.

Talk in Ottawa is that M.P.'s are going to get \$10,000 a year, Senators, \$8,000. Now, they all get \$6,000.

These proposed new salaries, perhaps, wouldn't be too big if we didn't have so many M.P.'s and Senators to pay them to.

It would appear Canada is one of the most over-governed countries in the world.

Let's look at the governing bodies of Canada, Great Britain, the United States:

Canada—House of Commons, 265 members; Senate, 102 members.

United States—House of Representatives, 435 members; Senate, 96 members.

Great Britain—House of Commons, 625 members; House of Lords, 846 members.

The Commons at Ottawa is more than half the size of the House of Representatives in Washington; the Canadian Senate has more members than the U.S. Senate—and that body has vitally important work to do, which is more than can be said of the Canadian Senate. The Canadian Commons is more than a third the size of the British Commons.

Yet, Canada has less than a

tenth the population of the United States; a quarter of the population of Great Britain. Per capita, these countries seem to manage very well with far fewer elected representatives than Canada has.

Just look at the cost of salaries of M.P.'s and Senators if the proposed boosts take place—265 M.P.'s at \$10,000 each, for a total of \$2,650,000; 102 Senators at \$8,000 a year, total, \$816,000; Grand total for sessional indemnities alone—\$3,466,000 a year.

That's an awful lot of money to be paid out each year for two governing bodies that would work more efficiently if they were much smaller.

The Nov. 24 by-election campaign in Victoria has the following highlights:

1. Conservative leader Deane Finlayson says Mr. Bennett has reduced the B.C. Premiership to an unprecedented low level.

2. Liberal leader Arthur Laing says Social Credit has reduced everybody and everything in B.C. to a ludicrous position.

3. Attorney-general Bonner says Liberals and Conservatives have dropped electioneering to its lowest level since Confederation.

The C.C.F. minds its own business, doing a minimum of name calling, steadily adding to that hard core of support which one day—10 or 12 years from now—will sweep it into power in B.C. The C.C.F. doubtless thinks Liberals, Conservatives and Social Crediters are all low and ludicrous; the names each calls the others.

Mr. Laing says Prime Minister Gundersen is embarrassed by the political company he is forced to keep, that, ay down deep inside him, he despises the financial theories of his associates.

But who is forcing Mr. Gundersen to keep such political company? Mr. Laing doesn't say. Oh, if Mr. Laing would only tell us! Is Mr. Gundersen groping blindly under the magic, hyp-

World Speed Record Set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A world speed record of 1,272 miles an hour was established Oct. 14 in a Douglas Skyrocket by Scott Crossfield, pilot for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the Los Angeles Times says today.

The former mark was 1,233 miles an hour, set Aug. 15, 1951, by Bill Bridgeman, Douglas test pilot, in the same plane.

Marvin Miles, Times aviation editor, says the NACA has verified the new mark.

Crossfield, 32, wartime fighter pilot, began his research speed flight after his rocket plane was dropped from a B-29 Superfortress bomber at about 33,000 feet.

Crossfield zoomed up at an angle of 25 to 30 degrees, gaining momentum as he reached the crest of his arc at 62,000 feet. Then he started down, giving the aircraft its final burst of fuel. At that instant it reached its greatest speed.

The plane was under power about three minutes.

Research speed marks represent the fastest man can fly as opposed to official speed records made at low altitudes in level flight over specified courses.

81-Year-Old Rides Bicycle To University

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)—A youngster of 81, Dio Chalmers Fleming, pedals his bike to classes at Bradley University.

Fleming, who retired from business 17 years ago, says he took it easy for a few years, but got tired of inactivity.

"I started taking setting up exercises at the YMCA," he recalled. "And every day since 1941 I've been taking long rides on my bicycle. I seldom cover less than 80 blocks. I use the bike to go to school."

Fleming, a graduate of Oberlin College, has also studied at Illinois Normal University and Colorado State. He is currently boning for a master's degree in psychology at Bradley.



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