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Brilliant Finale

TOMORROW will bring one of the first signs that winter is nearly over. The Alaska Music Trail is to present the final concert of its current series.

If one considers the stature of the artist, however, the fading winter takes on less importance. Harpist Nicanor Zabaleta would command attention in his own right at any time of the year.

A recent impressive example of this was given when he arrived from Europe for a concert in New York. Although a newspaper strike was on at the time and publicity therefore limited, the concert hall was packed. So enthusiastic was the reception that, despite the fact that newspaper critics had no way of spreading a cheer, Time magazine picked up the story anyhow. It ran a full column to describe the harpist's success and his musical career.

In doing so, it cleared up one point, which, since probably few of us know much about harp music, may be of interest. Time said: "Instead of misty sound effects and undulating glissandos that have become a trademark of harp performances, he played a clear-cut melody and counterpoint."

From this we can see that tomorrow's audience will not be required to sit through an evening of gentle strumming but will hear music which promises to create lively enjoyment. It would appear that this season's Alaska Music Trail is all set for a brilliant finale.

Canada Shirks Lifesaving Duty

WHEN a CN steamer ran on a rock in Seymour Narrows north of Vancouver, the other day, it was from the U.S. Coast Guard that Canadians learned of the mishap. Last September, nine men adrift on a Canadian barge in Lake Superior were rescued by Coast Guards. In the Maple Cove affair of some months previous two U.S. Coast Guard vessels stood by. Canadian gratitude in such matters should be tinged with embarrassment. Establishment of a Coast Guard service has been urged upon the Dominion Government for years, but without result.

Pacific waters are dangerous, and the B.C. Legislature last October called upon Ottawa to set up a Coast Guard service.

Ottawa authorities, on the rare occasions when they comment, cite the various government and private craft theoretically available for rescue work, and it is a fact that the Navy, RCMP, Transport and Fisheries Departments have small craft at various points. But vague talk of "liaison" is no answer to the need for craft and personnel definitely on call, and capable at appropriate ports of aiding large ships in trouble. Nobody expects the Government to launch an elaborate organization all at once. It can be started on a small scale, but it ought to be started.—Toronto Telegram.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

One of the highlights of the present session promises to be the appearance before the Trade and Commerce Committee of the Senate of Thomas Harrington McKittrick some time next month.

McKittrick is one of the world's most eminent financial figures. He is regarded generally as the outstanding authority in any country on problems of international banking and currency convertibility. It is expected that he will be before the Senate Committee on March 24-25 next.

In private life McKittrick is senior vice-president of the Chase National Bank. But during his long career as a financial expert he has held a number of public offices, including the presidency of the Bank of International Settlements from 1940-1946.

The problem on which he will advise the Senate Committee is international trading policy in general and currency convertibility in particular. He is believed to be one of the most powerful forces working behind the scenes for early convertibility between the United States dollar and the pound sterling.

Anything that McKittrick may say to the Senate Committee on the question of convertibility will have the ring of real authority behind it. That is the reason why his appearance is being awaited with so much expectancy in Parliamentary circles.

Senator Neil McLean, who is Chairman of the Trade and Commerce Committee, is responsible for securing the attendance of McKittrick. An economic authority of no small reputation himself—the late President Roosevelt consulted him on a number of occasions.—McLean is a personal friend of the Chase National Bank Vice-President and maintains a correspondence with him. It was at Senator McLean's request that McKittrick agreed to make his knowledge of trade and currency problems available to the Committee.

The engagement will turn the spotlight briefly on the inquiry into trading and currency problems which the Senate Committee has been carrying out since early last session. The work of the inquiry is being quietly but very thoroughly carried out. It is expected that it will be finished before the end of the present session. The report will be both lengthy and comprehensive. There is a good chance that it may prove one of the most important as well as interesting economic documents compiled since the end of the war. It may also prove to be controversial. At the moment it is understood to be leaning quite heavily towards a scheme of Empire trade.

As I See It



by

Elmore Philbott

The Salmon Deal

THE Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. James Sinclair, is the first man on the government side to have won warm commendation from the opposition benches this session.

The salmon sale, now being finalized, is a spectacular feather in the cap of B.C.'s up and coming "fishmonger general." It is also a practical demonstration of what can be done when business men put their heads together with government leaders to see how snags to sales can be removed.

FOR YEARS past I have been plugging away in this column for precisely the kind of action which was initiated last year, and which was carried through by as neat a team-play as has been seen for many a year in the field of economics and politics.

The British and Canadian governments got right down to brass tacks when the Right Hon. R. A. Butler was in Ottawa in 1953. Neither government was anxious to enter into direct barter deals. The Canadian government was unwilling to accept sterling, so long as sterling remains "inconvertible." But the "practical men" got around the difficulty in the following way: The B.C. fish and lumber interests really began, in earnest, to canvass the British market, not for selling but for buying possibilities.

The developments of the next few months exceeded all expectations. B.C. interests found that there were many items which had formerly been bought in the U.S.A. which could be purchased in Britain. They placed millions of dollars worth of such extra orders. There was no ironclad contract which compelled Britain to use these extra earnings for the purchase of B.C. salmon. But there was a gentlemen's agreement to co-operate for mutual benefit.

Both countries side-stepped the difficulties and complexities of a large-scale barter deal. But both parties achieved by other means the benefits of what barter would have given them.

CURIOUSLY enough, Mr. Sinclair is winning a reputation in Parliament in a new field. For many years he has spoken in the House, and on the public platform, and has built up a reputation as a hard-headed, hard-fisted fighter.

But in the past few weeks Mr. Sinclair has spoken to private gatherings inside Parliament with amazing effect. His subject was his trip to India, and other countries of Asia, in connection with the Colombo Plan.

It was a fascinating, factual but offhand and relaxed account of a personal inspection of all of the wonderful Colombo Plan's projects on which Canada is spending some \$25,000,000 per year.

But the report was more than merely factual. For the way the Hon. Jimmie tells it, it emerges as a great human dream.

Many of the people who have heard Mr. Sinclair in his off-the-record, behind-the-scenes, talks on his round-the-world trip are convinced that he could make exactly the same talks to vast audiences in eight or ten of the larger centres in Canada with great benefit to all concerned. For the story which emerges from Mr. Sinclair's record of his journey to the impoverished countries of Asia is different and more than an important public report. It is the testimony of a practical but compassionate Canadian, with eyes to see even behind the surface facts, and with a heart to feel for those hundreds of millions in their desperate need.

Shrinking Mutton

DUNDEE, Scotland — The Weekly News published here told the story of a 13-pound leg of mutton purchased 80 years ago by Banbury, Oxfordshire, and never called for. The mutton still hanging on a butcher's hook now weighs only one pound, nine ounces.

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"... HARRY'S SURE TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE WE NEED THAT PAY BOOST ..."
By Al Heaton in Vancouver Province.

LETTERBOX

The Editor,
The Daily News.

Proof that the Piltdown man is a hoax has proved embarrassing to a number of scientists.

"Many of us feel like saying 'I told you so,' because we knew it before they did. Our Bible plainly says, 'God created man' and being simple enough to believe that, we have saved ourselves a good deal of headwork and useless confusion.

They needn't worry about there not being enough years accounted for in the Bible for it. Genesis 1:1 we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven, and the earth," but it does not say He immediately created man, after that, and many Bible scholars believe there may be a lapse of thousands of years between God's first creations and the creation of man, which would account for the age of many present day archaeological findings. True science upholds Bible truths.

Pretty soon probably the same scientists will be chasing the new "creatures" they have discovered and think for sure they have found the missing links.

We'll rest on the fact that man was created by God and placed in the Garden of Eden and did not evolve from a pond or mud puddle.

"NO-MONKEY-BUSINESS."

The Editor,
The Daily News.

For 40 years Prince Rupert has had a bureaucratic millstone tied around its neck with the knot tightened in Montreal, namely, the drydock.

Little wonder the reaction to the proposed sale of same was one of happiness.

The conditions of sale are important, but for anyone to want to bind this knot a little tighter by maintaining the status quo is reactionary and unhealthy.

The fact that Prince Rupert will have in its hand the freedom to make autonomous decisions without first asking permission from the down-easters should be worth millions of dollars of doubtful drydock trade in the bush. Or am I not being materialistic enough in my viewpoint?

What price freedom, or how much will a city give for its soul?

Which sin is the greater... deliberate neglect or apathetic disinterest?

I wouldn't accuse the CNR of deliberately neglecting the development of the CNR from Jasper to Rupert but their disinterest is pathetically apparent.

As soon as the CNR passes through the rich capital of Alberta into the Rocky mountains, it guiltily hurries off to its lover, Vancouver, bypassing the virgin northland of B.C.

The balance of the north is reluctantly serviced by a CNR railway which is more interested in reducing the service than in boosting the development of the territory.

One-tenth of the interest shown by the CNR between Montreal and Vancouver applied to the Jasper-Rupert line would have paid off years ago in increased industrial expansion and a solvent railway system.

I most heartily recommend the sale of the CNR and its rolling stock between Jasper and Edmonton to private capital for

development. What have we got to lose?

How did the CNR get permission to cut off down to Vancouver through such poorly settled territory?

If the CNR had been told to keep straight on to the end of the road — Rupert — and ship from there, the north country today would be comparatively heavily populated, well able to support millions of eager Canadian settlers.

Somewhere along the line the directors of the CNR lost sight of the vision and became more interested in the CNR than in serving Canada. The principles of democracy became frustrated.

Thank God we live in a democracy and the mistake can still be rectified. How? The CNR can begin to institute a long range plan transferring terminals and shipping facilities to the north country.

One line, the CPR, is sufficient to service Vancouver. In the interests of Canadian democracy, the CNR should begin 10 years in which to complete the rehabilitation program and cease from operating the line from Jasper to Vancouver. That is, if democracy and Canada are to come first.

To further speed the rehabilitation of the CNR railway to its logical place in the north country, establish the present CNR executive between Jasper and Rupert, and, ipso facto, watch the north grow.

Or leave them where they are and, ipso facto, congest the congestion!

In conclusion, may I suggest that the CNR be asked to put its Jasper-Rupert line up for sale or donate it free gratis to the province of B.C. to be developed with the PGE railroad.

EDWARD W. GREEN,
Prince George, B.C.

A JOKE

The Editor,
The Daily News.
My wife's new teeth bit a chunk out of my income tax.
Yours truly,
J. S. F.

Meeting Honors Veteran Writer

VICTORIA (CP)—B. A. Pinky McKelvie, veteran of 30 years in the legislative Press Gallery, received an illuminated scroll Monday at the annual meeting of the Gallery.

Mr. McKelvie, associated with the Vancouver Province, the Victoria Colonist and the Prince Rupert Daily News, leaves Tuesday for an extended assignment with the Southam Press in Montreal.

Rates Too High Claim Lumbermen

OTTAWA (CP)—Lumber producers on Canada's west coast have protested that high freight rates largely are responsible for their being pushed out of traditional markets in western Canada by competitors in central B.C.

The British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers' Association made the complaint Monday before the board of transport commissioners in an application requesting lower freight rates on lumber shipped from the B.C. coast to points between Calgary and Fort William and Port Arthur. The application is being opposed by Southern Interior Lumber Association of B.C.

C. W. Brazier of Vancouver, counsel for the Lumber Manufacturers' Association, said west coast lumber men have lost markets in western Canada because of freight rate increases, but that the rate boosts have improved the competitive position of interior mills.

Gunderson Back In Own Business

VICTORIA (CP)—Einar Gunderson resigned as minister of finance in the British Columbia government Monday.

The portfolio now goes to Premier Bennett.

Mr. Gunderson was first elected in Similkameen in November of 1952 in a by-election after Premier Bennett went outside his elected members for a finance minister. He was defeated in the June general election in Oak Bay and later in a by-election in Victoria.

He remained in the government until the budget was completed.

He now returns to his chartered accounting business in Vancouver.

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Ray REFLECTS and REMINIS

A report has come from Ottawa that buffalo meat has been flown to Perry River, about 75 miles inside the Arctic circle. This meat is to feed, not the Eskimos, but the husky dogs belonging to the Eskimos. Why can't the dogs eat seal instead. There's plenty. Having enjoyed a good buffalo roast in Prince Rupert more than once, we know it makes fancy feeding.

No, But We'll Read On. Last week we had our bottoms all ready for color — remember? Shoe and Leather Record.

At the wedding, the presents for the bride and groom were displayed prominently for all the guests to see, admire, envy. One was a check for \$5,000 payable as drawn by the father of the bride. This magnificent gift brought forth ahs and admiration from all except the father's banker—he laughed heartily.

You might be able to tour the British Isles this summer and save cash at the same time, though this appears odd. What a "thrill tour ticket" costs is \$18 third class or \$27 first class and valid anywhere over Britain's transfer system, covering a thousand miles and good for six months. If historically minded, one can see more and wander less.

A FEW HOURS MORE
It's been tedious, this lack of arrival by the SS Prince George every Wednesday noon. Everyone, just naturally, had become old pals with three colors and a whistle, along with a fingerprint and three words "there she is."

The most of us dislike winter, it's true. But how many are pondering this? You can travel all the way home without the ice cream giving the slightest hint of melting.

Somewhat it seems strangely out of place for Newfoundland to have more statutory holidays than any other province. New-

foundland has a long well as being the lonely looking earth would one day of surplus land.

Walden El To Head

VICTORIA (CP)—den of the Vancouver elected president of the legislature press T. A. Myer of Colonist was secretary-treasurer of the legislature.



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The Fox and the Leopard



A FOX and a Leopard were disputing about their looks, and each to be the more handsome of the two. The Leopard said, "Look at my coat; you have nothing to match that." But the Fox replied, "You may be smart, but my wits are smarter still."

MORAL: Smart wits can bring you happiness and good luck. Outfox the hazards of life by opening a savings account with The Canadian Bank of Commerce—as so many other alert Canadians have done. Add to your balance regularly and make your savings account the cornerstone of your future independence.

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