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What Is Behind PGE Plans?

BEHIND Premier Bennett's breathless determination to extend the PGE both ways, and his mysterious suggestion of surprises to come, there may be an international deal of great importance.

It is known that for the past year or so there has been much behind-the-scenes activity to promote a railway to Alaska. The spearhead of the movement is in Seattle where Senator Magnuson has observed that the law which he sponsored in 1949 "to authorize the location and economic survey of the railroad from Prince George to Fairbanks is still in effect."

While considerable emphasis is being placed on the need for a railway to Alaska in continental defence, the Pacific Northwest Trade Association is said to be impressed also by its potential economic value. In the past year the proposal has been discussed between U.S. representatives and members of the B.C. government, and to a lesser extent it has been taken up on a federal level.

In addition to the route from Prince George, two others have received special study. One runs from Vanderhoof to Fort St. James, then northward along Stuart and Takla Lakes towards Telegraph Creek, and thence to the Yukon. The other goes from Hazelton to within 20 miles of Stewart, then through Telegraph Creek and on to Atlin.

Although the PGE route has possibly received the most discussion, there is understood to be strong support in the U.S. for a line from Hazelton because of the ready access it would provide to the Alaskan panhandle. Col. James Truitt, a Seattle engineer who made the Alaska railway survey, is reported to have recommended this route only. Canadian members of the Pacific Northwest Trade Association have pointed to the proposed metallurgical development at Tulequah as another reason to favor the westerly route.

If any of these discussions are behind Premier Bennett's plan to extend the PGE northward, the whole situation should be explained. Such an extension might well decide the location of the Alaska railway regardless of the advantages which other routes offer. Perhaps U.S. interests are to be given permission to build a line in B.C. on condition they connect with the PGE.

It is too big a subject to be secretive about. If there is an international deal in the making, the public should be told.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

There are about seventy million maple trees in Canada, but all have nothing to do with sugar. Syrup comes from groves in Ontario and Quebec and the farmers, with expensive equipment like evaporators and discharge pipes, clean up substantial sums.

BACK TO EDEN

Six-year-old Peter was playing in the garden with a small girl when he suddenly hit her. She ran home sobbing, the mother rushed out.

"Peter" she called. You had no right to strike Jean. What did she do, anyway?

"We were only playing Adam and Eve and she ate the apple instead of tempting me."

Any number of calm and collected looking persons can be noticed enjoying cigarettes here in Prince Rupert as well as elsewhere. After all, a bit of courage, now and then, is relished by the best of men—or ladies.

It looks like Senator McCarthy will be in Canada next month, somewhere on or around April twentieth in Toronto. He will do as he likes and so will the Canucks. The senator will be curious and Toronto is full of questions. Incidentally, this will stir the tourist trade.

SPEAKING OF NAMES

In Topeka, Kansas, Miss Jerry McConkey has announced that she is engaged to Mr. Jerry McConkey and will become Mrs. Jerry McConkey in June.

Europeans who have often heard about the American way of life are today hearing a lot about the American way of life.

It seems it has been made known by Communists that there are times when a bomb

can be sent anywhere on earth in as little time as forty-five minutes. But, he'd better keep clear of a few post offices that might be mentioned.

Jean Howard of the Province, writing her prelude to Easter, says how greatly Florence Nightingale reminds her of Mary Pack of Vancouver, the secretary of the B.C. Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. Other people have given wonderful help; but Mary Pack is the engine that operates the plant, the driving force, the task master, who routs lethargy, excuses, and the "lady with the lamp." She works all day of every day and when she's sick she works still, from her sick bed. Her work is just begun. No patient has ever been turned away, and if Mary Pack has anything to do with it no patient ever will be.

Certain officials who belong in Utah have refused permission to Bernarr Macfadden, octogenarian physical culturist, the right to make a leap over Great Salt Lake. And this reminds us there's any number of folks who often feel like telling the old man to go jump in the lake.

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As I See It



by
Elmore Philboots

Operation Ostrich

THE WORLD is at long last waking up to the fact that the new type bombs could destroy this planet.

There can be no doubt that the latest hydrogen bomb, which dropped over a Pacific Island, got out of control, so far as the previous calculations were concerned. Fishermen over 80 miles from the blast were injured by radio-active dust. We can only guess as to the effects on the fish, not to mention the delicate mechanisms which affect wind and weather.

Now the various governments in Asia and Europe are beginning to ask the U.S.A. to watch her step in any further experiments.

THE GRIM and horrible joke about the whole world situation of 1954 is that the top governments know very well the facts of life which the people, in the mass, have not yet been able to grasp.

Last Fall President Eisenhower was all set to make a speech which would literally have scared the living daylight out of his own people. It was to be "Operation Candour" and it was to tell the whole horrible truth about the hydrogen bomb.

But the top advisers of the President talked him out of the idea. The theory was that the American people were too jittery to take such strong medicine. The alarmists recalled what happened when Orson Welles put over his famous radio broadcast, about an imaginary invasion from Mars, and which was taken literally by large numbers of the listeners, who promptly panicked.

THE ONLY MAN in high place who has yet tried to tell the people the whole terrible truth about the hydrogen bomb is the American Civil Defense Administrator, Val Petersen who says flatly:

"The cities are finished." The man whose job it is to tell the people what they are supposed to do in the event of hydrogen bomb attack tells them, in effect, that the only thing they can do is to flee for their lives for the open country—away from the cities which in the event of war would be doomed as surely as were Sodom and Gomorrah, of which the Bible says:

"And lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace."

A COUPLE of years ago General Worthington, who heads our Civil Defense set-up in Canada, wrote an article for the Union Farmer of Saskatchewan which told more than has ever yet been told by statesmen.

It was to the effect that in event of world war three vast numbers of people who now live in the big cities of Canada would be forced to find refuge on the farms.

There is no defense against the hydrogen bomb—except for the Russians not to get the Americans to use it, and the Americans to get the Russians not to use it.

The most urgent task in the world today is to get reality into the talks at the UN. Unless we can agree not to go to war, and base that agreement on solid measures, our city and our homes and our children are just as surely doomed as are those of New York, Moscow, London or Rome.



STAN DRAKE, creator of The Daily News' "The Heart of Juliet Jones" comic strip, draws one of his central characters during "chalk talk" before the Scholastic Press Association's annual convention at Columbia University. Looking on at left is Dr. Joseph M. Murphy, director of the Association.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Canadian business firms who are corresponding with the Russian Embassy here with a view to securing orders are hoping that the Soviet Government will be more reasonable to deal with than the Canadian Government in respect to matters of price.

Recent events have been emphasizing the fact that the halcyon days—for manufacturers—of juicy profits on government contracts belong to the past, at least so far as the Canadian Government is concerned.

Within the past fortnight an Ottawa Valley textile mill actually cancelled an \$85,000 order which it had received from the Department of National Defence. Its explanation was that it was cheaper for it to close down entirely than to work on the government business. It would lose less that way.

Pilot Manoeuvres Runaway Plane Out Into Ocean

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP)—A United States Navy jet fighter pilot who wing-waved a runaway jet out to sea to avoid possible land disaster says he pushed it without actual contact.

Lieut. C. W. Vandenberg, 25, flying at 300 miles an hour in his Cougar fighter, turned the other Cougar away from its beeline for the populated coast after its pilot abandoned the craft over the ocean.

He manoeuvred his wingtip under the runaway, which had righted itself out of a spin 30 miles from here, and managed to swing it around 180 degrees. It crashed at sea.

"The air flowing over the wing of my plane," Vandenberg said, "was enough to lift the other plane's wing and tilt it around."

"I didn't touch wings with the other plane, but even if I had, it was flying steadily enough so that there would have been little danger."

FIRST BY JET

Vandenberg's manoeuvre is believed to have been the first of its kind involving jet aircraft. However, during the Second World War British and Canadian pilots often used this method to tip over German V-1 buzz bombs over southern England and guide them away from built-up areas.

Lieut. J. R. Macconn, 23, son of a retired U.S. coast guard admiral bailed out with ejector apparatus after his jet went into a spin at 22,000 feet.

The plane unaccountably righted itself at 4,000 feet, rose to 8,300 ft. needed for San Diego.

Macconn was rescued from the sea by a navy anti-submarine helicopter.

Report From PARLIAMENT

By E. J. Applewhite (MP for Skeena)

Ottawa Report E. J. Applewhite
My congratulations to Clarence Martin of the C. Martin Utilities at Masset, for his energy and initiative in acquiring additional plant in order better to serve his area. It is always a satisfaction to learn of people who back up their faith in their community with their dollars and their efforts.

The Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics for January, 1954, has just been released and shows that in January the sea-fishermen of Canada (Newfoundland included) caught 91,712,000 pounds of fish worth \$2,544,000. On the Atlantic coast landings of cod and herring were greater than a year ago, but those of all other species declined. The Pacific Coast catch in January amounted to 60,455,000 lbs worth \$809,000 to the fishermen. In comparing with last year's catch it must be remembered that in January, 1953, herring seining was almost at a standstill due to strike action. Exports of fish and fish products during the year 1953 amounted to \$114,376,000, 24 per cent below the total for 1952; sales of canned salmon were higher, particularly to the United Kingdom, and, to a lesser extent, to the U.S.A. and Belgium.

This is an expensive business, especially when things are not going well. My telegraph bill for February—the month the Prince Rupert Drydock and Shipyard was put up for sale—was \$104.29. I have not received the long-distance telephone bill yet.

A few—and it was only a few—opposition members saw fit to go on the air a couple of months ago, criticizing the Prime Minister for making his Asian trip while Parliament was in session. Those members have certainly not been supported by their respective leaders. The leaders of all three Opposition parties have publicly spoken of the great value and wisdom of Mr. St. Laurent's trip. I have, I think, written of the welcome

Mr. St. Laurent received on his return to the House of Commons, a welcome from all political parties, representing all Canada. On Wednesday, March 24th, we of the Liberal Party had our own family welcome for him, when Liberal MPs and Senators (should I have put the Senators first?) and their wives held a complimentary dinner for Mr. and Mrs. St. Laurent at which we presented him with a memento of his trip, an illuminated globe on which was traced his trip with the dates he was at each given place. Mr. St. Laurent was very noticeably moved when he spoke to us after the dinner and made one of the most impressive addresses I have ever heard. I can't begin to cover it here. Perhaps I may have an opportunity to tell you about it this summer.

Several times there has been brought up in the House of Commons a matter which is of concern to a large area of the province of British Columbia, namely, the sale and transfer to the Canadian National Telegraphs and the British Columbia Telephone Company respectively of the government telegraph and telephone system in our

(See REPORT)



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