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BC's New Chapter

SOME details of B.C.'s greatest adventure in the development of hydro-electric power are beginning to be heard from the east where plans and finances are being organized.

Starting at Lake Atlin, in the far northwest corner of the province, a series of tunnels will conduct water through precipitous drops to the Taku River, about 75 miles to the south. The power so generated will feed a giant electro-metallurgical centre to be situated at Tulsequah near the head of Taku Inlet.

As smelting operations get under way and the need for power increases, dams will be constructed to build up the supply of water to the north until the whole project reaches almost to Fort Selkirk, 150 miles beyond Whitehorse. It is estimated that by that time the cost will be two billion dollars and the project will be developing almost five million horse-power.

While facts and figures such as these are of interest, they do not tell the most absorbing part of the story. They do not tell about the great city which Tulsequah seems certain to become. They do not describe the movement of traffic which will be attracted there from all parts of the world. They say nothing of the possible effect the project will have on the B.C. interior where mineral resources have remained untouched because they are so far from centres where ore can be processed.

One can picture roads feeling their way inland through valleys and passes until that whole northern area becomes alive with new communities. Even in the mineral rich Cassiar district, about 200 miles to the east, miners already eye the Tulsequah development with an air of expectancy.

That is the prospect ahead for northern B.C. At present the story has not progressed beyond engineers' blueprints, but this month formal applications for water rights are to be made to the federal and provincial governments. Provided there is no hitch, the first construction parties will leave for the north this spring and a great new chapter in B.C. history will be started.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

A couple of Kentuckians it is learned, were recently arrested for the theft of a barn. Some one must have locked up the horse.

Canadian iron is reported again being shipped to Japan. It was being sent to Japan before the Second Great War broke out. We sent a lot of it, but nobody hears any criticism today.

SECRET WEAPON?
Dictators completely lack a sense of humor, comments Richard Armitage in the Post. Laughter is healthy, wholesome and civilized. Stern, unsmiling faces are the outward signs of an inward attitude toward life. Laughing at our sometimes desperate circumstances helps keep us sane. A sense of humor may be the secret weapon of the democracies. After all the ability to laugh is one of the distinctions between man and the animals. It may also be one of the distinctions between free people and slaves.

If there is one spot on earth where there need not be the slightest doubt as to what Canada's flag look like, it is on the wall of Prince Rupert's police court. Not only has it a correct, smart, new look! You just naturally think—why all this flag fuss and arguments? In fact, the premises look so neat, clean and tidy, a fellow doesn't mind being handed, for say thirty days, or just something nominal. That will get by the winter.

WHICH WAY FOR A DOOR?
It's half a century ago this New Year's since the Iroquois theatre fire in Chicago which cost 602 lives. How many could recall it today? How many, now, ever heard of it. The jam of people couldn't get out. Doors opened inward.

Examples of heroism are just as frequent as illustrations of villainy, and push-pilot Paul Riskey of Winnipeg is one of them. Marooned for six days in a bitter storm in northern Manitoba, he was, from many angles, put to the test in a succession of emergencies. He lived, and helped his three passengers do the same. He delivered a baby to its Indian mother, but his nursing

effort was in vain. He gave up part of his clothing and a sleeping bag. He is recovering, at the cost of shock, severe frost bites and exhaustion.

Food prices, one hears, continue to drop. But not the tipping system.

AND SO IT WOULD
People coming to Skeena will handle more money, it seems, just because this happens to be called north. But in Juneau or Whitehorse this would be down south.

Anglo-Canadian Salmon Scheme Starts Operation

LONDON (CP)—The first contract has been signed under an Anglo-Canadian "link purchase" scheme designed to boost British purchases of British Columbia salmon.

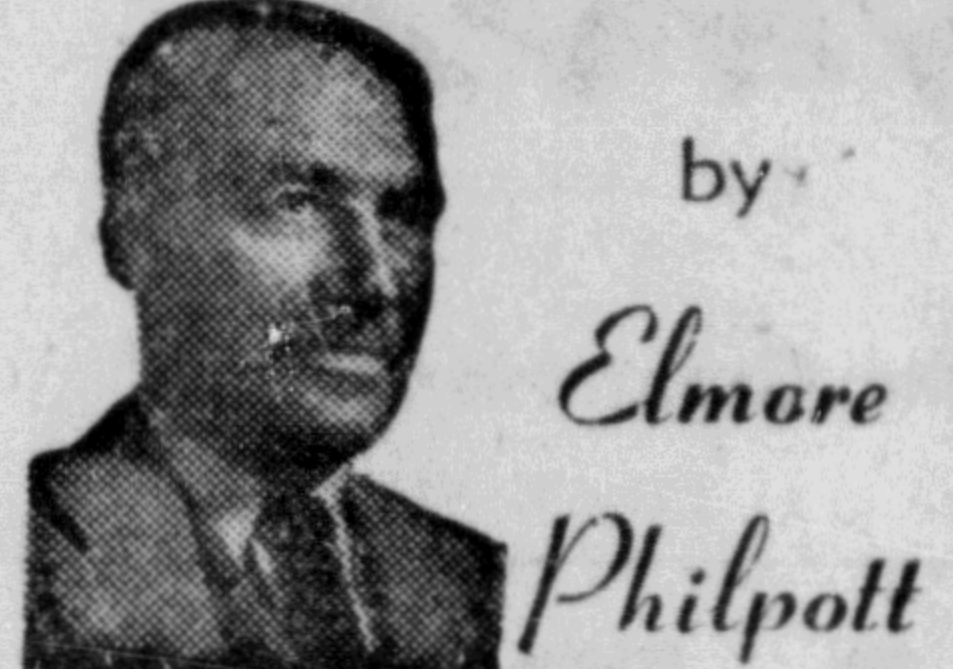
A spokesman for British Columbia House in London said the contract is for delivery to Vancouver of Welsh tinplate, which will be used for canning the 1954 salmon pack on the British Columbia coast.

Details as to price and quantity involved were not immediately available.

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As I See It



Bartender Cured

ON MY Christmas holiday at home I kept a date with the doctor at the veterans' hospital for a check-up on my knee. He gave the creaky old joint a shot of the wonderful lubricant, hydro-cortisone.

The stuff really works. It is wonderful that after all these years, science is now making giant strides toward the final solution of the mystery.

The doctor was getting a great laugh reading my file. Away back in 1927 the best doctors in Montreal passed the rather premature opinion that I was all washed up, so far as work was concerned. They expressed the opinion that I should pick myself out a nice sandy spot, down in some hot, dry place like Arizona, and lie in the sun in bliss, waiting for the end which, they implied, was not far ahead.

Well, since that time, I have got around the world quite a bit. Am still expecting to have a lot of fun out of this life (and the next, too).

THE medical profession will probably have me court-martialled, but I always make a point of passing along my rheumatic treatments. Here is one which comes on a Christmas card from Calgary—from a lady, Mrs. H. L., whom I have never met. She writes:

"I'm sure you hear of many arthritic cures—but perhaps none as simple as this. I nearly passed it up, then consented, suffering, thinking I had nothing to lose. After five weeks I began to feel better and now after three months I'm almost rid of that dreadful stiffness. My enlarged joints are reducing back to normal size."

"A bartender in a little northern town gave it to my husband. He had been unable to work, but in 10 days felt improvement and was cured in three months. Here it is:

"Take 10 tablespoons of clean, healthy alfalfa seed. Add two quarts of water. Boil about 20 minutes. Strain and put in a dark bottle and keep in a dark, cool place.

"Before each meal and again at bedtime put a little more than a quarter of a tumbler full of the mixture in a glass and fill up the glass with hot water. Drink it.

"While you are on the treatment, stay off all forms of alcohol—absolutely."

WELL, I can't see how that treatment could hurt anybody, except possibly the distillers.

The latest fad treatment for rheumatism is to go to the state of Montana and (for so much per hour) sit in worked-out uranium mines.

I have seen a scientific report by the medical profession which says that there is not much in this new "cure." However, a good many B.C. folks say emphatically they were helped.

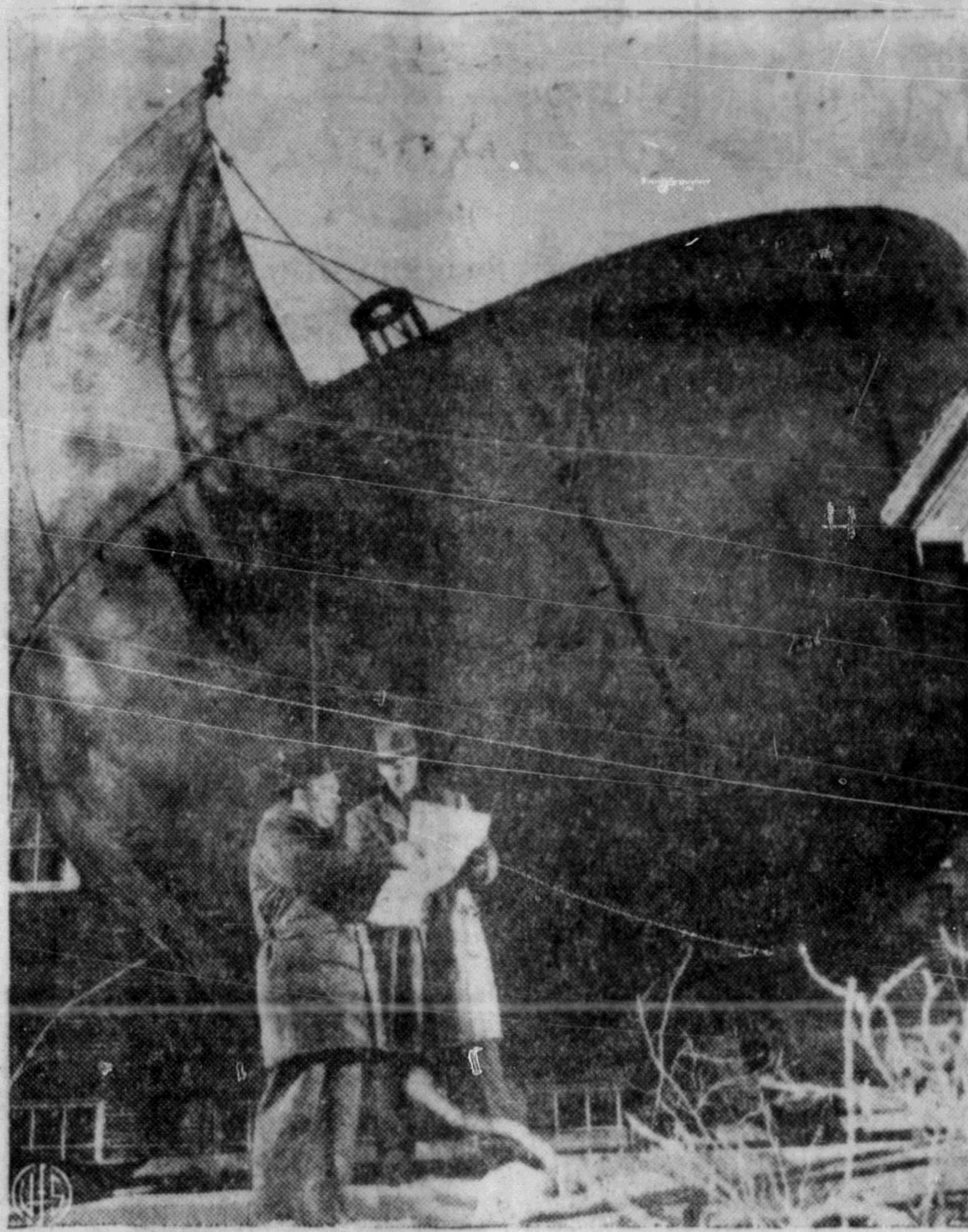
Yet the papers often tell us that "slave workers" in the Russian uranium mines die like flies because of exposure to the radio-activity.

It seems that uranium mines are poison—but only when they are held by the Russians.

Unemployment Rises In United States

WASHINGTON (AP)—The department of commerce says unemployment in the U.S. rose about 400,000 from November to December, increasing the jobless total to 1,850,000.

The department's monthly report on employment showed little change in non-farm employment, but a sharp drop in farm work with the onset of winter weather.



THEY ARE BUILDING a "new world" at the Babson Institute of Business Administration at Wellesley, Mass., but it will measure only 28 feet in diameter and weigh a mere two and a half tons. The revolving model globe, believed to be the world's largest, will get a steel "skin" with the world's face on it on a scale of 24 miles to the inch. Designed to depict the earth as it would appear floating 5,000 miles out in space, the model will be used for studies in global planning, both economic and military.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

For Progressive Conservative George Drew 1954 has been literally superionic in the speed of its warning to him not to expect things to be very much better than they were in 1953.

On the first day of the first week in the New Year a national news agency carried as its feature story a report that the annual meeting of the Dominion Conservative Association, which should be held in March, will supplant him as Party Chief with the brilliant Diefenbaker from Saskatchewan.

The story at least had the effect of prodding Drew into his first forthright statement of his leadership intentions—or rather, non-intentions. Within a few hours of the first mention of the story by nation-wide radio the B.C. Chief issued the flat statement from his Opposition Leader's office that he had "no intention of resigning."

That statement at least was real news. It was the first real clarification of the obscure P.C. leadership situation since mental debate overtook the party last August 10th.

It now becomes manifest to the forces in the Conservative Party opposed to the Drew leadership—their number unquestionably is legion—that if they wish to see any change, they will have to take the initiative.

Hitherto in the Parliamentary group there has been a general reluctance on the part of the rank-and-file MP's to force the leadership issue. Actually, the MP's expected that Drew himself would raise it by asking for a vote of confidence from the group when the present Parliamentary session commenced. But no such move was made, either by Drew, himself or by anyone else acting on his behalf.

The failure of the Drew hierarchy in the Parliamentary group to take the initiative clearly upset and embarrassed the anti-Drew faction. They had

relied upon the precedent of the late Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion, who immediately resigned to his caucus when badly defeated in 1940. Drew's tactics of proposing to ride out the storm was a manoeuvre with which they were not prepared immediately to deal. They delayed action in the hope that Drew simply did not want to act precipitately, but to choose his own time of departure.

A survey which some Tory MP's made privately of the Parliamentary group is said to have disclosed Drew as supported by only 15 of the Caucus. Inferentially, this means a 3 to 1 support for Diefenbaker, who is regarded as the only available alternative. The question is what steps the Caucus is prepared to take, now that it knows that Drew has no intention of giving up the leadership post without a struggle.

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Trade Mission To Discuss Wheat Surplus

MELBOURNE (Reuters)—Sir John Teasdale, chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, said today that a trade mission will visit Africa and Asia to try to sell off the 1954 Australian wheat surplus.

This surplus at the end of 1954 is expected to be about 60,000,000 bushels—enough to feed Australia for another year if no more wheat were grown, he said.

Countries in Africa to be visited will be Rhodesia, Kenya, Mozambique and Madagascar.

Teasdale said Canada has already sent a mission to Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, India and Indonesia to push sales of Canadian wheat, whereas these countries had been supplied largely in the past by Australia.

The general manager of the Australian Wheat Board, Charles Perrett, will leave for Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Japan in a few days.

When he returns, a member of the board, C. T. Chapman, and the assistant general manager, L. H. Dorman, will join in the trade mission to Africa. They will also visit Mauritius, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Singapore and Jakarta.

Teasdale said special stores will be needed to hold the surplus for at least one or two years.

The pulp and paper companies rent or lease their woodlands on an annual basis from the Crown. The consumption of wood in Canada does not exceed the annual increment of the forest.

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