An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia
Member of Canadian Press—Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited
J. F. MAGOR, President
Subscription Rates:
By mail—Per month $1.00; per year $10.00.
By carrier—per month, $1.25; per year, $12.00
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

# Welcome HMCS Ontario

AN UNEXPECTED happy occasion is being provided for Prince Rupert with the visit here of the HMCS Ontario. With all the hospitality that has characterized naval visits to this port in the past, the Ontario has lowered its gangplank and is giving local residents a welcome opportunity to see what life is like aboard this fine vessel.

There is particular interest in the Ontario in view of the fact that it first saw active service on the Pacific. Although commissioned too late to take part in the Second World War, it took up policing duties in the far east after reaching Australia on VJ Day. It is therefore especially appropriate that we should see it now on the Canadian west coast, a sturdy symbol of defence against the new Pacific menace that appears to be gathering strength on the far invisible shore.

Engaged at present in training duties, this powerful, well-equipped light cruiser has a valuable place in preparing for the dangers that lurk restlessly on the international scene. Should the world once more be plunged into the fearful ordeal of war, freedom of the seas will be as always a vital factor in our defence. Unless the allies can keep their shipping lanes open, they will fight a losing battle. Their efforts on all other fronts will be thwarted if the supplies that can be carried only by ship fail to arrive.

Maintaining this freedom will call for extreme measures. Already our potential enemy, the USSR, has a submarine fleet four times as large as that of Germany at the height of its wartime power, and improved equipment has made it many more times as deadly. If we are to be successful in meeting this threat, we must have at least a corresponding increase in strength on the sea and in the air.

With ships like the Ontario being added to our navy, we have assurance that Canada is ready to do its part in providing this strength. It stimulates a feeling of pride to see this splendid ship plying our waters, training young Canadians for naval service and keeping itself in readiness for the challenge that we hope will never be made. To all on board we extend a warm expression of welcome and thanks.

# Foot On the Gas Pedal

PREMIER Bennett has used a contemporary metaphor to criticize the Federal government's policy of restricting credit as a means of curbing inflation.

B.C.'s premier told a press conference in Toronto last week that Ottawa is "afraid of the new car it is driving down the super-highway of today's economy. Politicians are afraid they can't steer it, so they put on the brakes."

An event in Vancouver, taking place at the same time as Mr. Bennett's press conference in the Ontario capital, puts the figure of speech in proper perspective.

In Vancouver the B.C. Provincial Safety Council was discussing means of curbing the shocking toll exacted by drivers on the highways.

Statistics show that the province is creating the blackest road fatality record in its history largely because not enough drivers are afraid of the new cars they are driving down super-highways and are failing to put on the brakes. Instead, they head recklessly toward crashes.

Does Mr. Bennett think the Federal government should show the same lack of concern in its fiscal policies and invite the same result?

—Victoria Times.

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# As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

## Robots Still Unborn

PARIS—Here is the question which gave some NATO parliamentarians the worst headaches at our 1956 conference.

Is it wise to spend vast sums of money on the DEW line and other radar warning defences when new weapons may make all radar lines obsolete at almost any moment?

What makes the headaches all the worse is that nobody has the final answer.

Nobody knows, for certain, when guided missiles will be produced in such numbers and capable of such efficiency that all warning lines such as our far North Arctic defences will become obsolete overnight.

But the very fact that nobody knows makes it prudent to carry on with what weapons we have—even knowing that in the near future they may become obsolete.

UNTIL now, guided missiles are far from being practical, much less decisive weapons of war.

It is possible to make a rocket which will travel at a great height for thousands of miles. But, at least, so far as the ordinary MP can find out, no country has yet licked the technical problems which are inseparable from long distance rocket propulsion.

Those are two. There is a margin of error on every kind of projectile so far manufactured. Even in the First World War you could lay your gun perfectly on the target and make all the necessary corrections for worn guns, wind conditions, barometric pressure and so on.

But still there would be an inescapable margin of error of one half of one per cent—a margin of error of 50 yards at 10,000 yards.

Applying this principle to inter-continental rockets will show what the artillery men of the future will be up against. The rocket gunner in Moscow might aim perfectly at Vancouver and still hit Seattle, Victoria or Kamloops.

Rockets can never be precision weapons as bombs from piloted airplanes are precision weapons.

THE OTHER technical problem which the rocket manufacturers have not yet solved is to make projectiles which will not burn up as it re-enters the atmosphere.

It is easy for the Americans or Russians or British—or indeed even the Canadians to make a rocket which will swiftly soar into the air and travel vast distances. There is no problem in getting the rocket to soar out of the atmosphere or air layer and into the stratosphere. The catch comes when the rockets starts to descend toward its target.

As soon as it hits a solid layer of air it meets terrific resistance and burns itself up if built of materials we now know.

Scientists on both sides of the Iron Curtain are working to beat this re-entry problem.

Until now, thank God, nobody is known to have it licked to the extent that all the big powers can begin to scrap manned air forces and abandon radar defence lines or ground observer corps.

I THINK most of the MPs came away from the 1956 NATO conference in much the same mind as I did. So long as the danger of war remains as acute as it is, it would be utter folly for Canada or any other loyal NATO country to scrap our air force or the radar defences which conceivably could win a future battle for America in as real a sense as radar helped win the battle of Britain in 1940.

It may be that in X years all manned planes will be obsolete—and that radar lines will thereupon become useless junk, too.

But it could also be true that before the end X years the fate of the whole of mankind may be decided quite as decisively as it was decided when Hitler lost the battle of Britain.

"A REAL OCTOPUS" — Sara Murphy, 9, covers her face at the sight of an octopus shown her by Don Quiring, one of two youths who clubbed the creature to death when it tried to board their raft in Vancouver's False Creek. The octopus measures eight feet across with tentacles outstretched. (CP Photo).

STOP - LOOK LISTEN
Don't Forget the
ROTARY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
December 6th
CIVIC CENTRE

THIS LUCKY LAD at San Mateo, California, has an unusual kiddy car that's almost like his dad's ancient auto. The big and little old cars helped dramatize the styling of today's models at a showing and parade of 1957 cars.

# OTTAWA DIARY

By JAMES R. NELSON

The telephone call came through about 10 o'clock last Sunday morning. It was urgent notice that External Affairs Minister Lester B. Pearson was arriving at Uplands airport from New York at 12:30 p.m.

The minister, who had been leading Canada's United Nations delegation with distinction at both the current regular General Assembly meeting and the emergency sessions that preceded it on the Middle East and Hungarian affairs, was flying back to Ottawa for this week's emergency session of Parliament.

With him were his wife, his executive assistant, his personal stenographer, and two Members of Parliament (Liberal) who have been helping him to represent Canada in UN debates.

The word of the Minister's arrival spread quickly.

Dashing out to the airport from various parts of the city were his personal secretary, his department's assistant press officers, and three newsmen, one of whom cursed because the airport tower had advised him the special plane was arriving 10 minutes later, and he missed the show. Also, there were another reporter and stenographer who were on the trail of an altogether different story, but quickly joined in the flurry of excitement over Pearson's arrival.

The airport attendant sent out word to the tower, which relayed it to the Department of Transport Dakota, to taxi up to the west end of the terminal building where the expectant party was gathered on the tarmak.

So, with everything ready, Mike Pearson and his entouraged stepped down from the plane.

The reporters peppered him with questions. He was encouraged by the speed with which the UN emergency force was massing in the middle east, he didn't want to say anything more in advance of the emergency sitting of Parliament, and he had missed Saturday's Grey Cup east-west football game for the first time in many years.

A reporter told him the game was to be rebroadcast in less than an hour's time on TV.

"It is?" he said. "That's really good news. Well, let's get home right away."

So the minister went off in a cloud of dust to catch the football rebroadcast.

And the reporters scratched their heads, thumbed through their notes, and wondered what all the excitement had been about.

### BIG VISITOR

RED DEER, Alta. (CP) — L. V. Waldo of Red Deer bagged a seven-foot cougar near Rocky Mountain House, 50 miles west of this Central Alberta city.

# Other Papers Say . . .

### HOSPITAL PLAN SNUBBED

Members of the Manitoba Liberal Progressive Association have shown more sense than cabinet ministers they support both in Winnipeg and at Ottawa.

In their convention here they advised the Campbell government to give more financial aid to education and another resolution asked that positive action be taken to remedy the threat of flooding. In addressing themselves to both federal and Manitoba governments the provincial Liberals defeated a resolution which would have urged province and Dominion to accelerate their negotiations for the purpose of ensuring a national hospitalization plan.

It is exceedingly interesting that the resolution was tabled, not passed, and that this was done by a vote of 65 to 30, better than two to one. On this question of a national hospital insurance scheme, Premier Campbell's government has had the foresight to give it the cold shoulder, but Ottawa and Health Minister Paul Martin have been keeping up the pressure on the unwilling provinces.

The motion to table the resolution rather than pass it was put by Walter Christiansen, of the Young Liberals. He warned that compulsory hospital insurance would be followed by compulsory medical coverage. Then he made this interesting comment: "If we have one, the advocates of socialism will bring in the other one." This can only mean advocates of socialism within the Liberal-Socialist party, an echo of a label this paper has used for some years past.—Winnipeg Tribune.

### EVERYONE SATISFIED

Trail must be a dream city. Apparently there are no problems burdening the ratepayer. Wednesday night the Property Owners' Association could not hold its meeting because not even the quorum of 15 members showed up. The meeting was well prepared and three aldermen had come to answer questions to clarify many problems facing the city. These problems are of vital importance to every ratepayer particularly in view of the forthcoming municipal elections on Dec. 13. Aldermen, radio and press outnumbered the ratepayers at the meeting.

Something is wrong somewhere. It is doubtful that everyone is satisfied with the way the city is being run. The answer appears to be indifference.

Indifference has always been the cause of the low total of votes in provincial elections, although the last one in B.C. was more satisfactory.

There should be no indifference in the municipal field however. Municipal elections have more bearing on the individual than any other election. The policy of city council will determine the future of the city and the welfare of every citizen.

There will be no other meeting of the Property Owners' association before the election and one of the best opportunities to learn about municipal affairs in Trail has been missed due to the lack of interest of the ratepayers themselves.

At City Council Chambers Wednesday there were some harsh words spoken by the handful of ratepayers that were present. They questioned the right of democratic institutions to exist when the people had no active interest in them. The elected representatives did not fail this time but the electorate itself did.

Incidentally, this lack of interest in civic affairs is demonstrated not only at municipal gatherings but is experienced by all sorts of organizations. Many possible reasons are volunteered for this apathy but nobody seems to know the answer.

Do we allow our democratic rights and duties to take second place to social and sports entertainment? We will know on December 13.

—Trail Daily Times.

Use Want Ads--They Pay

# Bennett Accuses B.C. Press Of "Fuzzy Stories" on Parley

VICTORIA (CP)—Premier Bennett Thursday accused the press of B.C. of printing "fuzzy stories" of his recent negotiations with the federal government.

The premier discussed briefly at a press conference statements attributed to him that the federal government would pay 50 per cent of the cost of rerouting the trans-Canada highway on the lower mainland and would grant about $10,000,000 to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

Subsequent reports from Ottawa indicated the federal government will pay much less than 50 per cent of highway costs and has not yet made a decision on the PGE grant.

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi, now in Ottawa, said when he left here he would try and get a "better deal" for B.C.

Mr. Bennett said the press of the province was trying to "raise trouble between B.C. and Ottawa and said the stories were "all fuzzy stuff."

"I can't understand where these stories originate," he said. "Somebody makes them up . . ."

### TAKES OFF

WINNIPEG (CP)—People moving to new addresses have sometimes found it hard to get the table-tennis table inside and out. William Hardiman was holding one down on the back of a jeep when a gust of wind blew him and the table on to the pavement. He was taken to hospital with head injuries.

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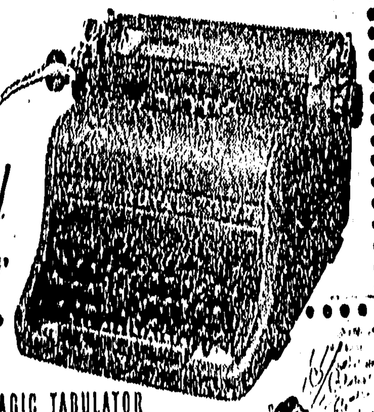

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