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Getting Through Fog

NO LONGER is the cost of building an airport on Digby Island a matter of wild speculation in which millions of dollars are added or subtracted according to one's opinion of whether or not the project is desirable. As precisely as they can be estimated at the moment, the figures are contained in a report several inches thick just completed by Department of Transport engineers.

Perhaps these calculations will establish that the project is feasible after all or perhaps they will support the arguments of those who could see no value in a Prince Rupert airport in the first place and, with tall guesses of costs involved, have dismissed the whole idea as fantastic.

Whatever the case, the report is another mile passed in the crusade of those who have fought to reduce the issue to facts instead of parlor economics. With this material available, it will not be necessary to discuss the subject in the same kind of fog which critics once claimed would preclude building an airport here in any case. These meteorological arguments were finally refuted on the strength of evidence at hand, and the financial ones may come to the same end.

The point is that we are getting through the misty hot air which, on the subject of a Prince Rupert airport, has blown consistently from the direction of Ottawa. Possibly, like a pilot in the same conditions, we will find new hazards ahead. But at least we can make sure of our course now and head for the best landing—and we do not mean on water.

On Climbing Stairs

ACCORDING to German researchers, those who live in houses without elevators and who regularly climb flights of stairs may consider themselves as well-trained athletes.

Ordinary walking burns up 2,100 calories per minute, ploughing uses twice as many, bicycling requires 6,300, and digging ditches in loamy soil about 7,500 calories per minute. But climbing stairs uses more than 15,000 calories per minute and even more if the climber carries a load.

No wonder we have an automatic aversion to stairs.

—Brandon Sun.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Clyde Gilmour, the movie critic, is back again after his annual holiday and from now on it would seem that we'll be seeing a healthier Hollywood and on the whole, better shows. Film fans must be happy enough. One confesses to having witnessed the same canvas drama nine times.

The Duke and Duchess of York, called the world's most romantic couple, have finally won a home of their own. It's an hour's drive from Paris—and its caused the duchess to write her first magazine article. Well, they are getting away from paying rent, isn't that something?

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Visitors to the coast just now, include Mrs. Bertha Solomon, who hails all the way from South Africa. She's a woman's rights fighter and veteran. She started by leading the suffragette movement from 1926 to 1930. Then, with General Smuts to back her, she battled for removal of legal disabilities of women. At that time women had no guardianship rights over their children, no alimony in divorce and no property rights. It took 23 years, but Bertha's Bill went through.

No less a dignitary than Premier St. Laurent recently complimented young Canadians who have been showing ability, skill and industry in the daily delivery of newspapers. It might be said that what the prime minister said could be applied with equal fairness throughout the Dominion.

In a crisis always behave like a duck—keep calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath.

Ultimatum: The last step before making concessions.

As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Germany Re-armed

IT IS impossible to regard the outcome of the London Nine-Power Conference with other than mixed feelings.

From the short range view the outcome of the meeting is a great victory for the patient peace-making of Anthony Eden who succeeded in spite of the blundering provocations of John Foster Dulles.

Eden has induced the present government of France to agree to a 12-division German army in NATO by promising to keep British divisions on the continent of Europe for at least 40 years.

But it remains to be seen whether any French government can survive even this safeguard agreement to re-arm Germany.

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THE risks in German re-armament speak for themselves. Three times since 1870 Germany has made war on her own neighbors. On the third occasion, the German nation turned back the hands of the clock of civilization to the most horrible in man's remote dash past. Germany was the most highly literate and best educated of any country on earth. Yet there is nothing, in the whole history of man, so terrible and horrible as the deliberate, planned murder of 6,000,000 Jews, and of millions of Poles, Ukrainians and Slavs whom the rulers of Germany regarded as "lesser breeds." They were literally to be wiped off the face of the earth to make room for the "master race." Yet the majority of Germans willingly supported Hitler to the end.

It is less than ten years since that attempt at world conquest was defeated. Yet here are the western allies actually rebuilding the German army in the face of the deep misgivings of almost all Frenchmen and about half of the people of western Germany itself.

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THE reasons why the western powers have felt it necessary to do this are as plain as are the risks involved.

Germany remains the key to the balance of power—or supremacy of power—in continental Europe.

If all Germany were solidly on the side of the west in the present power struggle with Russia, there would be no chance that the Red armies could ever successfully sweep west over Europe.

Also, with all Germany on the side of the west, it would only be a question of time till the Russian grip on the occupied eastern countries of Europe could be broken, even without actual war.

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BUT the Russians know all the above facts as well as do the Germans, the French, the British or the Americans.

The Russians have every right to fear Germany as have the French or the Poles—for German armies have invaded Russia several times since they formed the backbone of Napoleon's intruding army.

We can be sure that the Soviet will make all its supreme plays to keep Germany out of the power camp of the west.

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ONE obvious risk is that the Russian Communists will attempt another deal with the West German military leaders. The danger of such a deal will increase in direct ratio to the size of the new West German army.

Every German wants the reunification of his country. The Russians are now in a position to offer a deal to West Germany on the following lines:

Russia would withdraw her troops from East Germany, and hand over East Germany to the government of West Germany—thus reuniting the whole country. In return for this, the West German government would guarantee to keep all Germany out of the western power bloc.

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IN signing the pact to re-arm Germany the western powers have therefore taken on a calculated risk. They are deliberately taking a chance on the good faith of all German governments—present and future.

It is a very great risk—and the best thing that can be said for the course is that it is less risky than any other course which now seems open to the west.

STRIPED PANTS DIPLOMACY—Hardly wrinkling his natty striped suit, Dr. Shunichi Matsumoto, Japan's Ambassador to Great Britain, illustrates his wrestling technique during inauguration of a Japanese clubhouse in London. This may well be the Japanese version of Teddy Roosevelt's "speak softly and carry a big stick" form of diplomacy.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

There's a good reason why not too much has been heard from PC Leader George Drew since his return from his extended holiday on continental Europe.

The PC chieftain has been burying himself in the task of literary composition. According to his intimates, he has been preparing a series of articles on his summer travels. An Ottawa public relations counsellor has been retained to see that they secure wide newspaper and magazine distribution. They are reported to deal especially with the question of Communism in Western Europe and to be evoking considerable favorable interest on that account from the Roman Catholic secular press.

Journalism is an old story for Hon. Mr. Drew. At various periods in his career he has been a contributor to national magazines on controversial topics, usually of a defence flavor. He writes with a vigor which generally provokes a reply of sorts from the interests he attacks. A Royal Commission once was set up as a result of some of his magazine articles.

The coming series from his pen opens up obvious possibilities. The articles could be so severely critical of Canadian policy in Western Europe—which Hon. Mr. Drew viewed at first-hand during recent months—that they would bring to a close the era of bi-partisan foreign policy that has lasted since the end of World War II.

Most political circles in the Capital would welcome such a development. There's a strong feeling amongst realists here that too much agreement between government and opposition in any vital field of public policy is unhealthy. It tends to break down the party system around which Canadian democratic institutions are built. That system derives its basic principle from continuous rivalry between government and opposition in the realm of policies affecting the public interest. It doesn't contemplate long-range co-operation between the two groups and couldn't long survive if such practise became the rule.

There is considerable speculation on the likelihood of the coming Drew articles taking the wraps off a PC policy of more vigorous immigration from continental Europe, as well as the United Kingdom. Organized labor doesn't want immigration stepped up so long as industrial recession continues to swell the ranks of the nation's unemployed. But from many other quarters the pressure for a rapid build-up of population is strong.

The suggestion in political circles here is that Leader Drew intends to ally the PCs with the advocates of a larger population to bring about a further era of rapid Canadian expansion—and that his articles backgrounded in his European observations will fire the first shot in the crusade.

Ketch Arrives To Aid Training Of Navy Cadets

VICTORIA (CP)— Seventy-two days and 8,000 miles out of Halifax the 90-foot, Bermuda-rigged ketch HMCS Oriole IV has arrived at Esquimalt harbor to serve as a training ship in the navy's new cadet training plan.

Oriole is the only commissioned sailing ship in the Canadian navy, and will be attached to HMCS Venture to provide basic seamanship training for the 150 officers-in-training. She was brought here by a volunteer crew.

The iron-hulled ship was built in a U.S. yard in 1921 as a private yacht and sailed in the Great Lakes for many years. Navy League of Canada obtained the vessel prior to the Second World War as a sea cadet training ship in Georgian Bay.

B.C. Units Given Grants

OTTAWA (CP) — Three public health grants for British Columbia totalling $15,710 were announced today by the federal health department.

The Vancouver metropolitan health committee will receive $9,750 towards the cost of a new public health unit in Vancouver. The city's new health centre for children will receive $400 to help train people who will care for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

The King's Daughters Hospital at Duncan will receive $5,560 towards a 12-bed addition.

EXPANDING SERVICE

HALIFAX (CP)—The Nova Scotia Co-Operative Union is studying the possibility of setting up a trust fund to provide long-term loans and mortgages.

Cyclotron Beam May Be Used To Kill Cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Rear-Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, has disclosed that hydrogen particles have been fired from a massive cyclotron into the brain of a patient with advanced cancer. Outcome of the treatment is still unknown.

The test proves that human patients can be treated by cyclotron beam, Strauss said. Thus far only animals have been subjected to the intense radioation from atomic acceleration.

Strauss spoke at a dinner here. He said the test was conducted at the University of California laboratory in Berkeley, Calif., under the direction of Dr. John H. Lawrence.

USELESS SPECIMEN

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—A wolf eel, rare in Newfoundland waters has been put in the tanks at the federal fisheries research station for investigation. The creature, which officials say serves no useful purpose, was caught by the research vessel Marinus on the province's south coast.

ACTON VALE, Que. (CP)—Town council acted favorably on a petition by volunteer firemen for a pa yincrease. Firemen now will receive $1.50 an hour for the first hour and $1.20 for each additional hour. Previously they received $1 an hour.

STARLING SHOOT

SARNIA, Ont. (CP)—Police in Sarnia were authorized to hold a starling shoot because, a city councillor said, "it will be a good chance to let the police get their eye in and get rid of starlings at the same time."

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