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Air Travel Needs Help

IT IS an ironic fact that although B.C. is spending large sums to open up its interior by road and rail, it is not giving any support to that form of transportation which is the most effective pioneer of all—air.

The province is not alone in this. Throughout the country, airports are either a federal or a local responsibility, which is a situation that often leads to difficulty. At the village of Westview, near Powell River, for example, the local airport was built with federal aid but its maintenance has been entrusted to the village. Since Westview is not authorized by municipal constitution to spend its taxpayers' money on the airport, it has been necessary to tax the passengers making use of it. At Williams Lake the airfield is in constant disrepair because no solution to its upkeep has been found, and doubtless the same condition exists at other more remote points.

Roads being what they are in this part of the country, perhaps it is premature to suggest that Victoria divert public works money to airports. Yet it must be recognized that without ready access by air, the north country will be handicapped in its development and its highway program will suffer accordingly.

Possibly the most sensible approach to the problem lies in regarding aviation as a revenue-producing business. If it undertook the construction and maintenance of airports outside federal jurisdiction, the B.C. government would receive the benefits of landing fees, passenger tax where applicable, and fees for concessions such as buildings, vending of petroleum products, restaurants and ancillary services.

In addition, by promoting air travel the government would stand to increase the industry's annual turnover in B.C. which already is estimated at more than \$25 million. The tax returns both direct (as in the case of aviation fuel) and indirect from a business of this size must surely mean it should have the best of attention.

A government can only take on so much, but in this case the part about taking in something also deserves some thought.

Taming The North

THE days when RCMP constables, alone or in pairs, were landed at far northern posts and left in almost complete isolation for a year or two, no longer are the only official activities in those latitudes.

An Ottawa report tells of the landing of hundreds of tons of supplies for weather stations in Arctic areas. Planes and helicopters aided in the operation. And of course excellent radio communication is maintained between those stations and the outside.

The new developments will write their own chapters of courage and endurance. But the lone Mounties, stretching their meagre supplies through a second year because the summer relief ship could not reach them, will long be remembered for the big job they did when the going really was tough.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Chris Graham and family, schools this month in view of the Supreme Court ruling affecting attendance of white and black school children. But there need not have been. The town of Hobbs in New Mexico indicated possible trouble. There was none. More than 5,000 white pupils and 400 negroes marched into their respective classes, mingling together. There were few absentees.

From a house-for-sale advt. in Birmingham: "Located on one of Edgewood's finest streets in busy neighborhood."

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There was a feeling of tension in the United States public

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WINDS UP TO 102 MILES-AN-HOUR struck the rich Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia as Hurricane Edna swept near-ripe apples from trees and crumpled barns like the one pictured above. Apple-crop losses were estimated in millions of dollars. (CP Photo)

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

When truly remarkable Marilyn Bell was battling her way to fame and youthful fortune through the chill waters of Lake Ontario, she little realized that she was at the same time exemplifying the power of a woman to throw a monkey-wrench into the time-honored game of politics.

But she was.

For it so happened that precisely at the time that she was in the midst of her amazing feat, Hon. George Drew returned to Parliament Hill from his holiday abroad. For two months the PC Leader had been absent from the nation's headlines. That was something that he considered should be rectified with the minimum loss of time. So within a couple of hours of his arrival back in the Capital he was holding a press conference in the Opposition offices on Parliament Hill.

THE LETTERBOX GO TO PEOPLE

The Editor,
The Daily News:
I may be an exception but I can not see where all the talk of Alcan power for Prince Rupert makes sense.

M. E. Thomas, hired by the Council for a nice sum, suggested this possibility and on that supposition the idea of the commission supplying power became quite popular. Now we learn, first hand from commission officials, that it was never considered practical, due to extremely high costs and the population of Prince Rupert.

No reflection on Prince Rupert... but what have we, or will we probably have in 20 years nothing but a good sized fishing town.

I second Mr. Young's idea to go to the people to find out their true feeling now on the commission. You'll get a big surprise. Mr. Mayor. You have your council sticking together, but find out about the people they represent!

STANDS BY GUNS

The Editor,
The Daily News:
I notice one of the Daily News reporters is trying his hand at comic strip stuff in reporting council meetings. I realize the newspaper world gives brilliant reporters opportunity to display their wares, be they what they may.

For my part, I stand by my guns and charge that the taxpayers of the city have been victims of unwarranted expenditure in connection with assessment going during 1952-53 and again \$50,000 taken from general revenue during the present year.

ALD. GEORGE B. CASEY.

As I See It

BY
Elmore Philpott

World Law Rally

LONDON, England—The fourth MP's conference to promote world peace made by world law made by a world government has come to an end.

On the last night 2,000 people crowded into the vast (and very ugly) Methodist Central Hall. They heard moving speeches from the far corners of the earth—all declaring the end of the old age of national disorder. And those people underlined their support of this movement by giving—right there on the spot—over two thousand pounds—that is a freewill collection of \$3 per head for all the vast throng.

The contributions ranged from one of five hundred pounds, down to the copper coins.

THE first speaker was a British Conservative MP—Jim Pittman. He made one of the shortest and neatest speeches I ever heard. It was as streamlined as the famous system of shorthand which his grandfather gave to the world.

Next was another son of a famous father—the giant and handsome Norwegian Odd Nansen. This bearer of a great name is also himself one of Europe's finest architects. He showed how mankind must build a new structure and start with the lowest foundation—not the roof. That bedrock foundation is that all nations must give up or have taken away from them the legal right and the physical power to make war on their neighbors.

Two cabinet ministers sat on the platform—Pierre Lanet, of the present French government and Hon. K. A. Gbedehah, treasurer of the Gold Coast.

This humble but eloquent African received a tremendous ovation from the vast crowd when he said that he not only spoke for his own government and for all the native people of Africa, but that he also spoke for all the non-white people of Asia too. And what he said came down to this:

"When is the white man going to give up his savage war system which is driving the whole world to literal ruin?"

NEXT speaker was Clement Davies, the leader of the Liberal party in Britain.

I thought to myself what a wonderful thing it would be if this little remnant of the once great Liberal party should crown its great past history by leading the international movement to a successful conclusion of the drive for "the parliament of man." The British Liberals here are few in number but giants in

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Government of Canada By: BANK OF CANADA, Fiscal Agent

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