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# Canvassers Deserve Praise

WHILE there are hundreds of people in Prince Rupert who have done their duty either last night or previously as a matter of course, the heroes and heroines of last night's Civic Centre membership drive are the volunteer canvassers.

It is no easy task for the average person to assume the role of salesman. Approaching strangers in their home takes courage and a certain amount of conviction in the product they are selling. Meeting opposition, trying to talk people into buying something for which they have no use, often reduces even the most experienced salesman into a quivering mass of frustration. This of course shouldn't have been the case last night and such conditions shouldn't prevail tonight when the volunteers wind-up the drive in its final night of canvassing.

There should be no need to have "to sell" even the most uninformed Prince Rupert resident on the value of the Civic Centre to the city's adults or its youth. If the Centre were closed down the screams of protest and anguish would echo throughout the entire district. Yet grown persons have to be persuaded and coaxed into investing the colossal sum of anywhere from $5 to $12 per year in something the value of which is inestimable. Actually, the canvassers should merely have to collect the money, but it is natural that the town's newcomers have to be briefed on what the Centre offers in the way of a program for both young and old.

But whatever the kind of home they called at last night, it is a tough chore for the uninitiated and a goodly percentage of last night's canvassers were doing it for the first time.

So to those who struggled through the darkness, where porch lights had not been turned on, who found that it was hard going to convince people that membership in the Civic Centre was a matter of civic pride and duty, we pay tribute.

Should there have been some of you who were missed last night, we humbly ask you to make it easy for the canvassers. If your house was missed, and it appears that no canvasser is coming, don't say "to heck with it, if they can't send anyone out then they can go without." Call the Civic Centre, they will send someone out to sign you up as a member. The Civic Centre is the heart of Prince Rupert. Do your part to keep its lifeblood flowing.

## Consumers Ask Boost in Grant

OTTAWA (CP)— The Canadian Consumer Association today asked the federal government for a $4,000 increase in its annual grant to help meet increasing costs.

At its formation in 1947, the CAC received $10,000 from the federal government. The grant was cut to $7,000 for the next two years and to $6,000 in 1950 at the suggestion of the association.

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DR. EELCO N. VAN KLEFFENS, 59, Netherland minister to Portugal, has been elected president of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. He succeeds Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, retiring president.

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# As I See It

BY

*Elmore Philpott*

### Two Houses Compared

OTTAWA—Due to the miracle of flight, you can leave London at six o'clock in the evening and be in Ottawa in time for breakfast next morning.

The day before I flew home I was personally shown around the building which houses the "mother of parliaments." As Sir Winston Churchill was not there to hold down his own seat, I tried it out for softness.

I came to the conclusion that the "slow old British" are miles ahead of us North Americans in some of their parliamentary arrangements. Our seats at Ottawa are hard and uncomfortable—and whoever designed the chairs had certainly no regard for human anatomy. No wonder that Canadian MPs spend a good deal of time out of the Chamber. You can't even sit in our hard and rigid chairs very long without throwing your neck out of kilter and also without getting an occupational disease equivalent to housemaid's knee—except that it hits you one joint further up.

* * *

THE wise old British who have been at this game a long while, deliberately provide seats for less than half the total number of members. Also, there are no desks for the MPs. Hence they keep their House of Commons so small that the MPs can almost hear a whisper across the floor.

As everybody knows, the original House of Commons was bombed in the Hitler war. But it was rebuilt pretty much as it was before. That wise old parliamentarian, Churchill, insisted on keeping the small size.

A strange thought ran through my mind as I sat on the British front bench. I wondered if the British MPs used to chew tobacco in the old days as our fellows obviously did. If they did there must have been a constant hazard that some outraged member would let fly with a humiliating but non-deadly missle.

I don't know what made me think such a trivial though in such a history-laden spot unless it was that immense spitcon in my own office in the House of Commons at Ottawa.

My green-fingered wife hailed it with delight the first day we got there. She promptly transformed it into a miniature Japanese garden.

* * *

MY guide around the British parliament was Frank Beswick, MP, who was a junior Labor minister in the wartime, or post war government.

Mr. Beswick, like myself, is a great believer in the British Commonwealth. He thinks that the British Commonwealth could still save itself and the rest of mankind too, if it threw its united weight into the cause of world law, made by a UN given the powers to make such law—as distinguished from mere treaties.

Mr. Beswick introduced me to Dr. Edith Summerskill who had just returned from her trip with Attlee, Bevan and Co., to Russia and China.

This lady MP and ex-cabinet minister, must surely be the most decorative feminine parliamentarian in any country.

In the Hollywood phrase she is obviously "beautiful but not dumb." In fact, she is smart as a whip.

She told me a bit about the episode in Moscow where Premier Malenkov picked the famous bouquet of flowers and presented it to her.

The amusing feature was that she was immediately deluged with cables from various newspaper syndicates offering her fabulous sums preferably for a photo of Malenkov presenting the flowers or failing that, for her personalized story of the trip.

She was rather shocked when I suggested she should have taken up the offer.

I thought the Attlee series on the China trip was good but a bit too humdrum. I don't think a series by the lady MP would ever be humdrum.

# ray...

## Reflects and Reminisces

Harold Winch has been telling the Vancouver Board of Trade that he "is proud to be called a politician." There are thousands of men who have died poor after a long and honest life of hard work. One need but think of the Nova Scotian, Mr. Fielding, who ranked among the ablest finance ministers Canada has known. Friends had to buy him a residence in which to die.

It does not in the slightest look like a session of parliament in Ottawa this fall. At least this is what the Financial Times says. There are several sound reasons and this is one of the chief. In previous years, members were drawing only six thousand. The new pay cheque calls for a full calendar year. So whether parliament sits for 365 days or one the rate will be the same.

Watch out for the weekend. Saturday afternoon is when people wash their cars. Sunday is when it rains.

Lots of things are opened by mistake. These can include mouths.

"Opportunities in the banks are tremendous," says Neil J. McKinnon, general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and now touring the coast for the first time. "Men in banks are being pushed ahead as fast as ability permits, rather than being forced to follow the apprenticeship system of years gone by. Starting salaries are as good, or better, than elsewhere today."

# OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Cabinet Ministers have reacted to the obvious facts that daylight-saving is ended and that every passing gust of wind leaves the trees on Parliament Hill more nearly naked by deciding that it is high time to put what is left of their summer schedule into mothballs for another year.

Consequently, the weekly meetings of the government which have been the rule almost since Parliament recessed will give place next week to more frequent gatherings. Routine business which has been piling up on ministerial and departmental desks will begin to receive systematic attention. An atmosphere of drive and purpose—with motives of national and political policy inextricably mixed—will be reborn in the Capital. The dog-days of summer and early autumn boredom will be over.

One of the first projects upon which a start will be made will be the work of preparing for the coming session of Parliament. It's not going to be until after the new year. But it will take that long to have hings completely ready. Departmental spending estimates have to be prepared in detail. Decisions of policy have to be taken on legislation. Most important of all, the economic material to be used as a guide for the preparation of the budget has to be assembled.

The budget is always a closely-guarded secret between the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and senior officers of the treasury and the Bank of Canada. But the material and situation upon which it is based are matters of knowledge to the Cabinet generally. In the present instance, it is widely known that the government would like to cut taxes, not merely for purposes of political popularity but also in the hope of cutting the costs of business, lowering prices and thus stimulating greater economic activity.

Right at the moment it looks as if such a policy was going to be easier to plan in theory than to carry out in practice. Two situations are against it. One is the fact that the Old Age Social Security Fund is running in the red to the tune of almost $50,000,000 annually and almost certainly will have to have the sales, income and corporation taxes upon which it relies increased for its benefit.

The other apparent obstacle to a tax reduction next winter is the general budgetary position. Right at the present moment there is a revenue surplus of $150,000,000. But at this time last year there was a surplus of $285 000,000. And by the time the books were closed on March 31st it had dwindled to a mere $10,000,000. On the same basis the present surplus should become by next March a thumping deficit. There is just one factor of major difference: defence costs this year are running much less and are dropping steadily. They will affect the picture. The question is whether they will affect it enough. The outlook isn't too rosy.

## New Masthead For Herald

VANCOUVER (CP)—The Vancouver News-Herald has a new name atop its masthead today: The Vancouver Herald.

Announcing the change, the morning paper, which recently moved to a new building, says the new name is "less cumbersome" than the former hyphenated title.

"We are proud of being the Vancouver Herald, conscious of all that the name conveys in the way of duty, responsibility and enterprise in the service of the people," the paper says.

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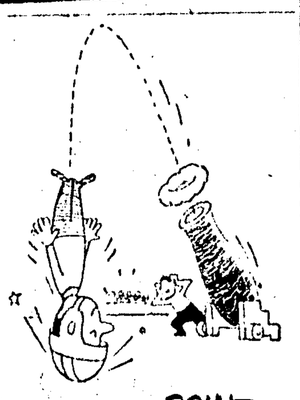

FOR ONE POINT landings

WITH THE increasing hazards of highway travel, there may be a big market ahead for a new lightweight aluminum crash helmet developed in Europe. It not only takes unnecessary weight off your mind; tests proved that it also exhibits less "dent depth" when objects are dropped on it — with no one underneath, we should add.

Sounds like a sensible chapeau for construction workers too. Certainly lots of aluminum articles developed for one use have been quickly adopted for others . . . a process which has helped build heavy demand for Canadian aluminum both at home and in foreign markets. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

True Case History of Tommy

Tommy mixed good lemonade with good business at "My Bank"

During the summer Tommy and his friends operated a successful lemonade stand. With his $5-share of the profits he opened his own personal savings account at the Bank.

"I want to buy a hockey outfit this winter," said Tommy, "and I know the best way to do it for it is to deposit so much every week at 'MY BANK'."

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