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Forestry Boom

In RECENT weeks the B.C. pulp and paper industry has been the subject of such important negotiations that its whole future seems certain to take on new shape.

Of paramount interest to those in the business is the purchase by Rayonier Inc., a large U.S. company, of controlling interest in Alaska Pine and Celulose Co. When the transaction was announced, Walter Koerner, president of Alaska Pine, pointed out that the "entry of Rayonier to B.C. brings very great skill in cellulose chemistry, silvichemistry, international exports prestige and ample capital funds for development and expansion in B.C."

Then right next door to us there is the proposed establishment of a multi-million dollar mill by the recently formed Kitimat Pulp and Paper Co. This will bring extensive new industrial activity to the area and fresh utilization of forest resources in this northwest district. Closer to home still, the Columbia Cellulose Co. is in the middle of an expansion program which will provide further stimulus to activity in this field of the province's industry.

In the Kootenay district an associated concern, the Celgar Development Co., has completed working plans for large forestry operations which will vitalize the area around Castlegar. Still other companies in the picture with their own particular plans for development are B.C. Forest Products Ltd., Pacific Pine Co. Ltd. and Crown Zellerbach. The first two are seeking forest management licences, while the third is preparing to build a kraft pulp mill at Duncan Bay, Vancouver Island, to be operated in conjunction with a newsprint mill completed there two years ago.

Altogether the value of the expansion program in mill construction alone amounts to \$150,000,000 and the total returns to the province will go far beyond that. In fact it is expected that B.C. will see a revival of the activity which several years ago made it the world's most rapidly developing area in the pulp and paper industry. Recently it has yielded the spotlight to the southern states where new processing methods have made it possible to make greater use of the timber native to that district.

Politically this activity has the same significance as it does commercially. In its handling of forest management licences and other matters connected with the expansion program, the Social Credit government must move with care. A false move carries the same danger as a camper's careless match.

Scripture Passage for Today

So Shall He Sprinkle Many Nations.
—Isa. 52:15

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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

• Unemployment Offsets

THE unemployment situation in Canada is serious as we approach the end of this year 1954.

It is true, as the Prime Minister pointed out in his radio speech of November 10 that there are fewer unemployed in Canada now than there were on July first. It is also true that the ratio of unemployment is low—say not over two per cent of the total working force—but that the ratio of the federal help should be sharply increased as the rate of joblessness rises.

Thus, if only two per cent of the workers are out of jobs, the federal grant might be, say, five per cent of the total required for assistance; but if the rate of joblessness were ten per cent then the federal authority would assume 90 or 100 per cent of the outlay, as such a situation would be entirely beyond the means of the municipalities to handle.

IT SEEMS to me that there is one point on which nobody in Canada should quibble.

The federal government is primarily responsible for full employment or non-full employment. It is the federal authority and only the federal authority, which has the necessary control over exports and imports, as well as over interprovincial trade. It is the federal authority alone which has the necessary power over taxes, money and credit.

Nobody in any political party has challenged the above principle for at least 20 or 25 years past.

IT IS a disgrace in this day and age that any decent citizen of Canada should be forced to choose between a soup kitchen and starvation.

Vancouver and other great cities of Canada have every right to demand that the federal government should stand behind them when it is necessary to give financial assistance to unemployed not eligible for unemployment insurance.

Surely this could be worked out.

THERE already are several works of tremendous value which we can go full speed ahead. For example, the St. Lawrence seaway, the Trans-Canada Highway, the Alberta to Quebec natural gas pipeline, the Peace River to Vancouver and U.S. border gas pipeline.

If only the Russians would beat all their shell cases into trombones, the world would be a happier place. But the export of Red instruments may be a cunning trick to demoralize the householder's of East Meadow, who will have to listen to the musicians practicing.

It is also possible that the trumpets, contain pocket-sized atomic bombs, triggered to explode when you press the middle valve down.

Discounting those hazards, however, I think we can take the risk of trading freely in musical instruments across the Iron Curtain. It may do more good than harm. Suppose the Communists can make a better trombone and sell it to the West. Maybe we can sell them a better nose-flute. So both sides save money.

What if the Reds do unload their cut-price trumpets on us? Maybe we can strike back by selling them our mass-produced balafokas and glockenspiels.

Or if we want to get nasty we can send them a shipment of bagpipes. But we should try peaceful methods first.

Pearkes Hits Gun Removal

VICTORIA — Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, Progressive Conservative military critic in the House of Commons, said here Thursday the shipment of 9.2-inch coastal guns from this area to Europe is a "grossly unwarranted expenditure."

While agreeing the RCAF and the navy do the duty once assigned to the coastal guns, he said he could see no justification for sending them to Europe.

The guns, in the area a number of years, will be sent to Europe under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's mutual aid program.

Gen. Pearkes said if the guns were outdated for the defense of the west coast, they would be outdated in Europe.

A new drug has been announced to stop a pain in the face. How about one to stop a pain in the neck.

HAS TO HAVE SOMETHING!

William Feather said it when he managed to get this one off: "Society will not permit us to say everything we'd like to, so we keep our mouths shut and have nervous breakdowns."

The fellow who uses good Scotch doesn't always use the best of English—Brandon Sun.

Switzerland does not have television. Children have nothing at all to do in the evenings but study their lessons.

IT TASTES FINE

"Like to eat well? Vocal about it?" a Toronto paper's headline advises. But in Heaven's name, what a way to eat soup!"

Framed notice in a doctor's office: "Ladies in the waiting room will please not exchange symptoms. It gets the doctor hopelessly mixed."

Alan Taylor, a youthful student of medicine was recently

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All Aboard

By G. P. MORTIMORE

Feverish patriots will stop at nothing to display their loyalty.

In the war before last, I am told, they banned music by German composers. They smashed the windows of delicatessen stores, and garrotted the proprietors with strings of their own sausages—then learned too late that the victims were Swiss and not German after all.

I don't think they plumbed the same depths of childish spite on some such common sense principle as this—that the federal treasury make only a token grant to the municipality when the ratio of unemployment is high—that is that 5,100,000 persons are "gainfully employed" while only 199,000 are drawing unemployment insurance.

Thus, if only two per cent of the workers are out of jobs, the federal grant might be, say, five per cent of the total required for assistance; but if the rate of joblessness were ten per cent then the federal authority would assume 90 or 100 per cent of the outlay, as such a situation would be entirely beyond the means of the municipalities to handle.

School authorities demanded that they be replaced by non-Communist horns; then blushed when they learned that the import had been approved by the government.

The last I heard, the school authorities were still pondering whether the young trumpeters of East Meadow should be allowed to blow their blue notes on Red horns.

You might expect defenders of the American way of life to buy those Bolshevik trumpets eagerly, because every horn exported means that much less brass for the buttons of the Red Army, and that much more chance that a Red soldier will have to walk around with his tunic unfastened and get his Adam's apple frozen.

If only the Russians would beat all their shell cases into trombones, the world would be a happier place. But the export of Red instruments may be a cunning trick to demoralize the householder's of East Meadow, who will have to listen to the musicians practicing.

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APPOINTMENT of Gordon P. Calne as Sales Manager for British Columbia is announced by Martin Paper Products (B.C.) Ltd. Mr. Calne will direct sales operations from the company's office in New Westminster. A University of Manitoba graduate, Mr. Calne is former sales manager and a director of Bulman Bros., of Vancouver.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN
M. MACLEOD

Opposition circles aren't exactly suspicious that anything out of the ordinary is behind the retirement of Mr. Graham Towers. They implied willingness to consider other employment adds materially to the mystery why he is leaving his present job.

As a result, the Towers resignation is assured of a thorough airing when Parliament meets. Finance Minister Walter Harris will be asked a number of searching questions on the circumstances surrounding it. The Conservatives may even move to have Mr. Towers appear before the Banking and Commerce Committee to make a personal statement.

The consequences could be sensational. Or they could be a complete anti-climax. It very easily could turn out that there is nothing more in the Chief Governor's resignation than appears on its surface, namely his desire to enjoy a life free of the responsibilities of the exacting and arduous post. It may be assumed that Mr. Towers is in a financial position to gratify any notion for leisure that he might cherish.

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Naturally, therefore, opposition circles are curious to know the reasons for the change in Mr. Towers' mood. The ones that the Chief Governor himself has given just don't seem to be sufficient. It is noted that he doesn't even say that he will not take another job if a suitable

LOT'S OF BIKES

BOGOTA, Colombia — A bicycle factory at Call, first Swedish industrial enterprise in Colombia, has reached a monthly production rate of 1,500 bicycles and 1,500 children's tricycles. Expansion is planned to output up to 10,000 units.

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