

Panhandle Nonsense

HERE is a great deal of nonsense being written about the effect of the Alaska Panhandle on the development of northern B.C. The tenor of it is that the Panhandle is strangling the northern part of the province and that nothing can be done about it unless free access is provided through the Alaskan territory for Canadian traffic. The most publicized proposal calls for the establishment of four corridors across the Panhandle at strategic points.

While the corridors would be a great convenience, it is fatuous to blame all the ills of northern B.C. on the unfortunate condition of its geography. It is a defeatist attitude which carefully overlooks certain facts to justify itself. An example of this was provided recently by the Vancouver Province. To illustrate an article describing the Panhandle problem, this usually reliable newspaper carried an inaccurate map that failed to show the vital Portland Canal which contains part of the key to the answer. To look at it one would imagine that the coast in that area continues along in an unbroken line.

The only real and permanent solution lies in the construction of roads and rail lines to the closest Canadian ports. Other provinces are developing their north by extending communications without the advantage of any outlets to the sea whatever. But listening to the B.C. laments, one would suppose that unless the entire coastline is made accessible, there is nothing that can be done.

It should be remembered, however, that any plan which calls for corridors through Alaska or possibly revision of the Jones Act would always be at the mercy of political whim. Also it would almost certainly involve some concession by Canada which might have to be dearly bought.

Those pressing for access across the Panhandle point with justification to the difficulties experienced in shipping out ore from the Consolidated Mining and Smelting development at Tulsequah. It is true these are serious but the problems that beset the asbestos mine at Cassiar are worse. To get out of the province, the asbestos must be trucked north to the Alaskan highway and thence go all the way to Edmonton. With the development of roads running north and south, both these projects and many others could be served.

The solution to opening up northern B.C. lies in Canada's own hands. To wait for concessions affecting the Panhandle is simply putting off the obvious.

Save a Life

LAST year in Guelph, Ontario, only two weeks after he had learned artificial respiration, a man saved the life of a nearly drowned swimmer.

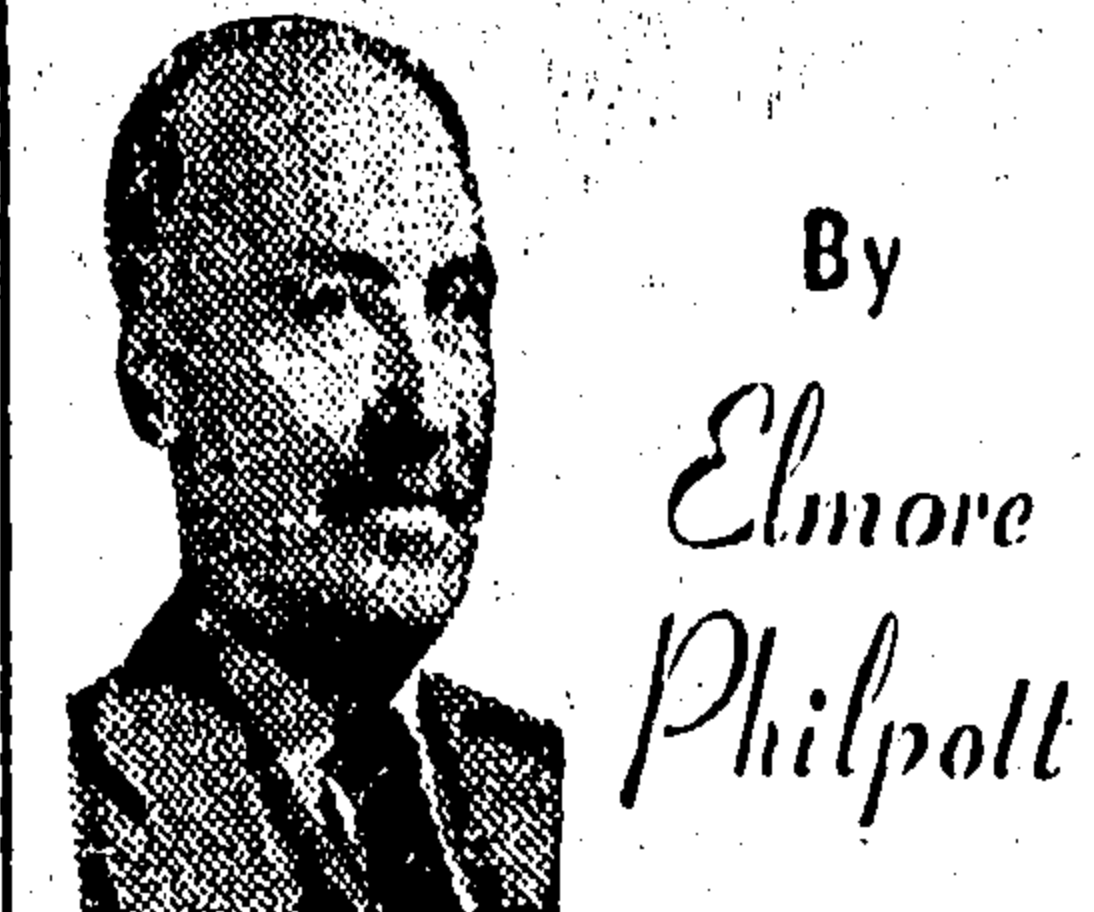
This rescue points up dramatically the need for a more widespread knowledge of artificial respiration. It is all very well to pull someone unconscious from the water but if no one knows how to revive him, he might as well have never been rescued.

To meet this need St. John Ambulance is currently sponsoring Save a Life Week. During this period St. John will hold free two-hour classes in artificial respiration for all those who wish to take this valuable training.

With the summer season approaching, there will inevitably be water accidents. It is hoped many Prince Rupert citizens will take advantage of the opportunity St. John is providing to be prepared for emergencies. Two hours may save a life—and this training is useful in other ways, too, for St. John points out that 40 per cent of the deaths from fires are from asphyxiation.

The classes will be held nightly at the city hall, starting at seven. They are real insurance against someone dying because you did not know what to do.

As I See It



Those Army Ceilings

THE British Minister of State, Anthony Nutting, has made an amazing statement in Parliament.

The western powers could not accept Russia's offer to reduce the armed forces to 1,500,000, he said, because that ceiling would have been too low to enable the Americans to keep their forces in Europe!

British Ministers, like Canadian Ministers, or the ministers of any other country, sometimes make rather absurd off-hand statements, because they are speaking on the spur of the moment. But this statement by the responsible spokesman for the British government is surely too ridiculous to allow to go unchallenged.

The western powers had everything to gain, and nothing to lose, from acceptance of Russia's offer of the ceiling of 1,500,000 for the total forces of the U.S.A. and Russia. Under such a proposal, Russia would have been compelled to cut the total permitted number of uniformed men from 4,000,000 to 1,500,000. The U.S.A. would have been compelled to cut from 2,900,000 to 1,500,000.

Surely that would have been a bargain for the West on any basis of calculation! Surely we are getting ourselves in a position which is even more absurd on the military level than it is on the level of politics.

OF COURSE, NATO needs American and Canadian forces in western Europe, to help guard against possible Russian attacks.

But who in his right senses believes that there will be the same danger of a Russian attack if the total Red forces are reduced from 4,000,000 to 1,500,000, as there will be if those forces are maintained at the 4,000,000 level?

And, even on the basis of military mathematics, would not the U.S.A. be in a far stronger position if her world-wide manpower force was equal to that of the Soviets, rather than in the present ratio of 40 to 29 in favor of the men in Red uniforms?

IT IS quite clear that the western allies have made up their minds to reject any Russian offer of armament reduction, unless and until the Russians had agreed to the reunification of Germany.

It is worth noting that the West German government has insisted on this priority and that the government of France has been "persuaded" by John Foster Dulles to agree with the German point of view. In other words, France has felt compelled to abandon her own former arguments, which were to the effect that armament limitation need not wait for a settlement on Germany—but indeed might facilitate such.

AT THE latest London disarmament conference, Canada pushed, rather cautiously, for a limited armament agreement. The arguments advanced by Canada were to the effect that nothing succeeds like success—and that even a minor success in armament limitation could lead to later and greater benefits as mutual confidence grew. It was too bad that the U.S.A. and Britain failed to pay more attention to the Canadian proposal. Perhaps Canada's diplomatic techniques are somewhat too polite to win success with our own allies.

Certainly, the American refusal instantly to accept in principle Russia's proposal of a manpower reduction to 1,500,000 was a major blunder, which will do the western democracies serious harm, especially in Asia, where the world-wide propaganda battle is keenest.

ACCIDENTALLY BAPTIZED
JOPLIN, Mo. — Detective John Showers was baptized the other night, without benefit of clergy. Checking on a reported prowler, he descended into the dark interior of a Baptist church basement and suddenly found himself wading in the baptismal tank.



DIFFERENT ROLE FOR ENTERTAINERS—The members of the singing quartet titled the "Four Lads" take time out from their night-club chores at a Las Vegas, Nev., hotel to admire the rose garden at St. Anne's Catholic Church before the group sang with the choir. The boys, who were taught at St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto, Canada, sing with the choir on Sunday whenever possible. Left to right are: Frank Busseri, Bernie Toorish; Father John Ryan, pastor of St. Anne's Church; Connie Codarine; and Jimmy Arnold.

Other Papers Say . . . OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

BLOW FOR LUNACY
The (Nanaimo) pupils struck because they said that the administration was "despotic" which is a strong word.
And what did it mean? It meant that the principal, and his staff were agreed that no boy or girl could take part in school athletics unless they were getting passing marks in their school work.

It looks as though the young people of Nanaimo needed some democracy, and the nature of instruction in the meaning of schools. They do not go to school to play games, but to be outfitted with the basic skills and information which will fit them for life in a democracy.
It is democracy which provides them with this wonderful, this extraordinary opportunity which was undreamed of a century ago, to get an education at a very low cost.

How utterly we have dismissed from our minds the recollection of a society—some elderly people can still recall it—when comparatively few people could read and write easily, and when access to foreign languages, science, and classics was limited to the small group who could pay high prices for such teaching! Nowadays everybody has a first-class education offered to him, paid for by taxation, and he can make as much of it as he pleases. If he has the necessary ability no extremity of university education is denied him.

Yet, what happens? In Nanaimo, at least, pupils strike if they are not allowed to play games, however stupid they may be in class.
"It's a funny world, where the children strike for the right to be stupid, and 'democracy' is used as a cloak for lunacy."
—Peterborough Examiner.

Cypriot Shot During Search

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Reuters) — A Greek Cypriot was shot and killed by British troops during a security search today at Polis, 70 miles west of here, it was officially stated.

The statement said the Cypriot Greek, Kyriakos Soteriades, broke a security cordon around Polis while a search operation was in progress, and threw stones at the soldiers. He was challenged three times, and when he refused to halt, a single shot was fired by a British soldier.

In Nicosia a 15-year-old Cypriot Greek schoolboy was sentenced today to 10 years in prison for carrying a home-made bomb.

12 YEARS LATER

ESSEN, Germany (Reuters) — A former Nazi district leader and a "Werewolf" resistance leader were given prison terms here Saturday for illegally shooting a German army deserter at Quedlinburg in 1945, one day before American soldiers arrived. George Ay, former Nazi district leader at Quedlinburg, was sentenced to seven years, and Alfred Heise, who shot the deserter on Ay's order, got eight.

LEARNING VS. LOVE
The Canadian Medical Journal has decided that kissing may be responsible for the marked increase in the number of cases of mononucleosis. This disease features fever, sore throat, and swollen lymph glands, and may affect other parts of the body including the heart, the digestive system and, in particular, the spleen.
We would not presume to question the doctors' findings, but we think that the following statement, which appeared in the Journal, deserves comment: "Unanimous predictions concerning the over-increasing size of university student populations should lead us to anticipate that infectious mononucleosis will assume an increasingly significant role in the story of diseases affecting the adolescent and the young adult."
Surely the doctors are off the track here. Are not the universities more widely known as pasture places of learning than as places of love? Perish the thought that they should be anything else.
—The Edmonton Journal

Alcan Income, Sales Drop After Quebec Power Shortage

(Special to The Daily News)
MONTREAL—Aluminum Limited's consolidated earnings statement for the three months period ended 31st March 1956 shows a net income of \$10,436,193 or \$1.04 per share compared to \$9,053,394 or 91 cents per share in the first quarter of 1955, based on the number of shares outstanding at the end of each period.

Consolidated sales and operating revenues showed an increase from \$91,890,903 last year to \$102,825,397 in the first quarter of 1956.

Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd., whose accounts are consolidated with those of Aluminum Limited, showed a decline in net income from \$7,432,415 in 1955 to \$5,221,659 this year. Alcan's sales and revenues dropped from \$67,472,823 to \$63,379,798, reflecting the first-quarter power shortage and production cutback in its Quebec smelters.

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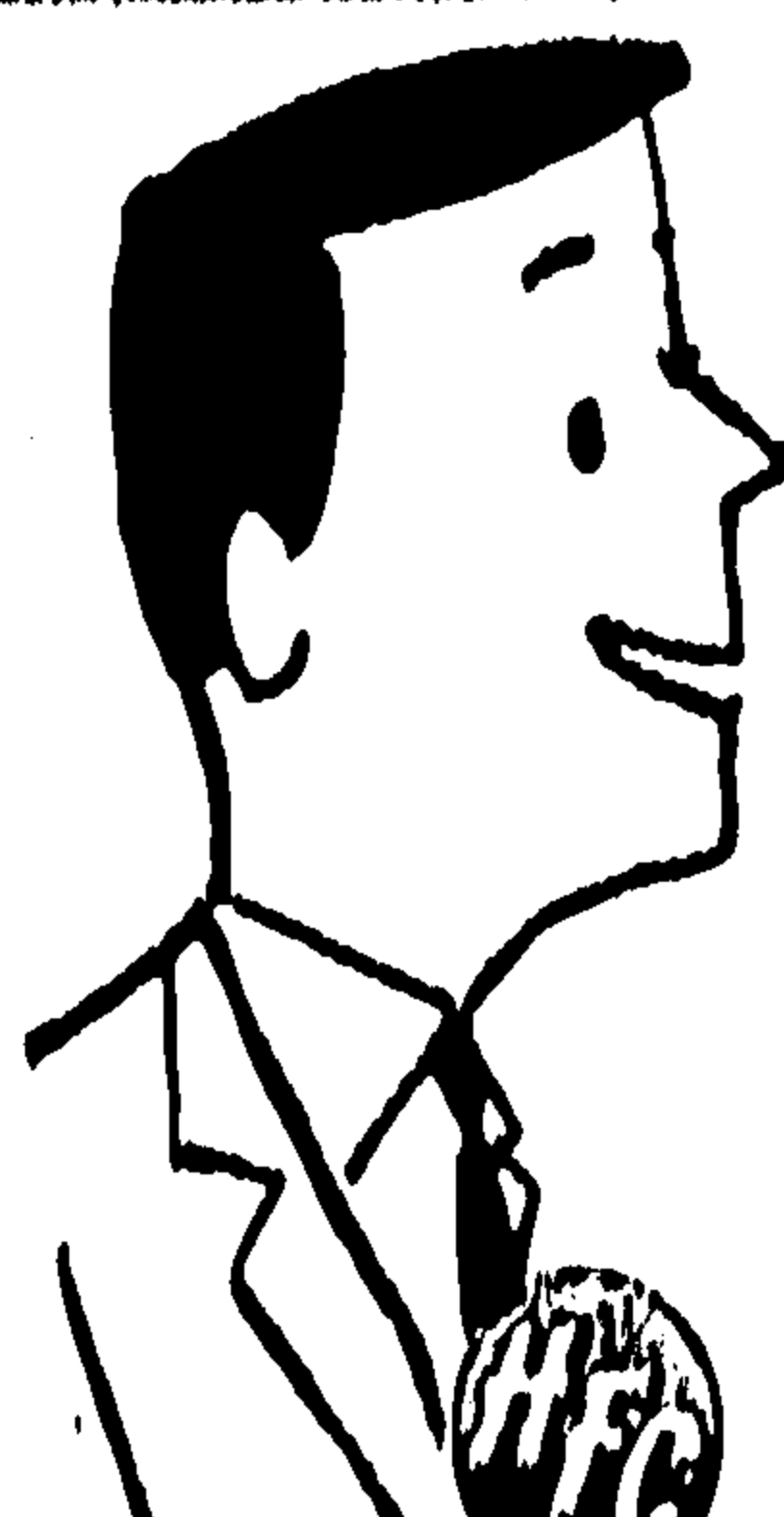
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