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Wide Choice Needed

IT IS encouraging that the coming civic elections show signs of becoming a contest instead of a give-away program. While there is still plenty of room for more candidates, at least it appears that the voter is going to be given something of a choice.

His choice is more important now than ever, for Prince Rupert is reaching a point in its post-war history where it might well stand or fall for good. It has a place in an area which is rapidly becoming more industrialized and where it could easily drop to a secondary position unless it plays its part wisely. It is imperative that business recognize the opportunities here and it is only through the city council that these can be developed to their best. Other organizations can provide the spur but it is the council which carries the responsibility of improving our public services, our facilities in education, accommodation and recreation, and our mill rate.

The last is the key to the rest. If it is too low, nothing can be accomplished. If it is too high, there will be very few around to care whether anything is accomplished or not.

The new council will have more power than its predecessors to reach a satisfactory adjustment in this respect. With liquidation of our refunding debt, the new provincial assessment schedule and re-assessment on a local scale, there should be every chance of compressing the rate without curtailing what the city can undertake. Lack of caution, however, will put us right back where we are now, which is high enough to turn a ratepayer's stomach.

Nor can we afford much more skirmishing over our public works program. Disagreement and poor planning in this direction can account for more wasted revenue than any other line of municipal operations.

On the whole our present council has given little cause for real complaint. After an uneasy start, it settled to its task in businesslike manner and, though it failed to look very far ahead in refusing to consider the city manager plan, has set a course which should simplify the task of councils that follow.

However, the future is insecure without a strong council in charge, and this will only be provided if the voters have a wide enough choice to elect one. As in all things, an election is survival of the fittest.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

The family of Hon. George Drew feel relieved to know the head of the house is recovering from a grave illness, and will be able to attend parliament which opens early in January. Most of Canada would like to believe so.

SOMETIMES LIKE THAT

A man in Mexico has been given an extra sentence because he was making counterfeit money in his jail cell. This non-recognition of quiet industry and devotion to a craft is, to say the least, discouraging.

To be effective, observes an experienced service club member, a committee should be made up of three persons. But to get anything done, one member should be sick and another absent.

THE WISE VIRGIN

To lure some handsome man in town
Ilona donned her sexiest gown
While lissom Yvonne, dressed in fashion
Exuded perfumes named "grand passion",
But Maggie used no ruse so savage —
She simply cooked corned beef and cabbage
Who got her man? Don't be a dummy?
The gal who catered to his tummy!

Brock Chisholm, the Victoria psychiatrist still does not believe in Santa Claus, and continues to do his best to have children believe their youngsters are listening to a pack of lies. Well, it all comes down to this. Old Man Santa Claus is just as much with us as ever. And always has been.

The use of apartments in Victoria is rapidly increasing. This has been going for at least 20 years. In 1921 only 2 per cent of Victoria's families lived in apartments. In 1951, 30 per cent did. More and more apartments will go up on unused lots and sites where old homes still stand. This will cause increased loads on water mains, sewers and drains. The more there is of this, the less Victoria, speaking generally, is going to like it.

THE HOME TOUCH

Sign in an English hotel: "Please do not wait to be introduced to your fellow guests; we are all one big family. Do not leave valuables in your bedroom."

Penticton vandals broke into a stable in Oliver one night not so long ago and cut the manes and tails off four prize Arabian show horses. It takes at least a year for a horse to grow a mane and two years to grow a tail. But it will take a lot longer than that to forget the cussedness of certain individuals who call themselves men.

Sterling Invasion

SEACOMBE, England (AP) — Thousands of fog-bound starlings clustered on the 90-foot clock tower in this Berkshire town, stopping the clock and blacking out the four lighted clock dials.

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"WHERE GOOD FOOD COSTS LESS"
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FOR ORDERS TO TAKE OUT

As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Cash Versus Credit

MY GOOD friend the business editor of The Vancouver Sun has taken issue with some of the flippant ideas recently expressed in this column on the question of cash versus credit.

I am seriously interested in two aspects of this question—why all the big concerns are trying so hard to switch people from cash to credit buying—and why the cash customers, the worthiest people of all should always get the short end of the stick?

✣ ✣ ✣

NEVER a month passes but what letters come to our Vancouver house urging us to open new charge accounts.

Not long ago I was visiting my parents in the city where T. Eaton founded his famous stores on the principle "pay cash, pay less." The doorbell rang and there stood a smart young lady whose job it was to sign up new customers for charge accounts. She went to every house.

What has happened to change the trend from cash? Surely the main answer is that stores have found by actual experience that a customer with a charge account buys more than a cash customer with no charge account. The extra volume of business which that particular store gets from the charge account more than enough compensates for the higher operating cost.

✣ ✣ ✣

BUT I don't see why the cash customers should help to pay for the extra cost of the bookkeeping and collection of my charge account—and of hundreds of thousand more like mine.

During the Hitler war my mother tried hard to buy a certain scarce article in the big store which she has patronized all her life. She was then about 80 years of age and as solid as a rock in her Scottish principle that you should never buy anything unless you have the spot cash to pay. But because she was just another unknown cash customer she could not get the then-scarce article.

However, when my wife heard about Granny's disappointment she simply phoned the same store to send up that same item right away—charging it to our account.

It came up by delivery the next day.

✣ ✣ ✣

THE Sun business editor says that I have made no distinction between charge account customers and those who pay on the time installment plan.

I think this is an entirely different question. The time payment plan buyer pays an adequate charge for the extra service he gets.

But the example cited by The Sun business editor glosses over one great pitfall.

Suppose a man makes a down payment of $100 on a $500 piano. Suppose he agrees to pay off the balance in ten installments of $40. If he has been charged at the full rate of 6 per cent on the full balance of $400 for ten months—then you mathematical wizards among our readers, how much has he actually paid by the end? Remember at the end of one month he only owes $360 and so on.

But let me make plain—I am a strong booster for the time payment plan. It has been a literal God-send to almost every woman with a washing machine.

AFL To Launch Big Campaign Throughout B.C.

VANCOUVER (CP)—A vast new organizational campaign involving thousands of workers and millions of dollars will be launched in British Columbia construction projects by the American Federation of Labor.

This was disclosed Monday following a top level conference here of 40 Canadian and American AFL leaders.

The meeting was closed, but representatives said the full scale organizational drive would be launched as a result of the meeting.

Delegates commenting on the bitter jurisdictional battle between the AFL Allied Aluminum Workers Council and the Congress of Industrial Organizations United Steel Workers said that an attempt would be made to strengthen ties between AFL unions at Kitimat and Kemano.

The AFL leaders accused the steel workers of "raiding" AFL unions at these northern B.C. industrial developments.

The organizational campaign is still in the formative stage, but plans call for a drive in the three western Canadian provinces and in the Yukon.

The AFL unions hope to get workers certified at the Frobisher, Kaiser dam, Mica Creek and pulp mill construction projects in B.C.

About 15 of the union leaders will journey to Kitimat Tuesday to look over the AFL-CIO battle first hand.

Business Spot

By The Canadian Press

Canadians are gradually becoming big investors with their total holdings abroad likely to rise by $100,000,000 this year to a new high of $2,300,000,000.

Most of these investements are in the United States, in beverage and farm implement companies.

In fact federal official; estimate that on a per capita basis, Canadians are far heavier investors in the U.S. than Americans are in Canada.

For example, at the end of 1952 the Canadian per capita investment in the U.S. was about $100 compared with an American per capita investment in Canada of about $50.

The first mental hospital in North America was founded in Quebec.

SAILING SCHEDULE
Enjoy the extra comfort steamship travel provides, aboard Canadian Pacific's B.C. "Princess Norah" next time you travel.
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Lv. Kitimat ..... 8:00 a.m. Saturday
Lv. Ocean Falls ..... 9:00 p.m. Saturday
Ar. Vancouver ..... 9:00 p.m. Sunday
NORTHBOUND
Lv. Vancouver ..... 8:00 p.m. Tuesday
Ar. Ocean Falls ..... 7:00 p.m. Wednesday
Ar. Kitimat ..... 8:00 a.m. Thursday
Ar. Prince Rupert ..... 8:00 a.m. Friday
ALL TIMES PACIFIC STANDARD
PRINCE RUPERT
KITIMAT
KEMANO BAY
OCEAN FALLS
VANCOUVER
Canadian Pacific

A. H. (HAMMY) McDONALD, 35, Liberal member of the Saskatchewan legislature for Meosomin, who won the leadership of the provincial Liberal party last week. A farmer from the Fleming district of southeastern Saskatchewan, Mr. McDonald won on the first ballot from four other candidates. (CP Photo)

Store Willing To Sell Beer If "Wanted"

VANCOUVER (CP) — A proposal for sale of beer and wine in British Columbia grocery stores appeared to be gaining momentum Monday as one large department store announced it would sell beer "if the public wants it."

Sale of beer and wine by grocers was proposed last week by the B.C. Retail Merchants' Association. At present such sales are limited to licensed beverage rooms, dining rooms and cocktail lounges and government liquor stores.

A spokesman for Woodward's Department Stores Ltd., commenting on the RMA proposal, said the policy of his company would be based on public opinion.

"If the public wants beer, we'll sell it," said the spokesman.

The company operates department stores in Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster and a number of smaller B.C. centres.

However, a spokesman for the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., said sale of beer and wine was against company policy and would not be sold regardless of any possible future legislation.

Officials of Canada Safeway declined comment except to point out the company sells beer and wine in the United States.

In Victoria, Attorney-General Robert Bonner declined to comment on the RMA proposal.

Sale of beer and wine by grocers would require an amendment to the Liquor Act.

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OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

In point of size—47 countries are represented—the GATT Conference at Geneva is the largest international gathering in which Canada has taken part during the present year.

Present prospects are that it is going to prove the least rewarding. Although it has been in session now for going on two months, it has achieved nothing of concrete importance, and the atmosphere in which it continues to carry on is reported to be one of pessimism.

Government circles here are disappointed rather than surprised. They hoped ardently that out of GATT would come expanded international trading arrangements which would give Canadian exports the stimulus they needed to boost the sagging employment picture of recent months. But the difficulties which the negotiators faced were recognized well in advance of the meeting, and there was no disposition to under-estimate them.

The reason that international tariff negotiations have become even more difficult than almost the knottiest problems of foreign diplomacy lies in the vast increase in the complexity of national economies virtually the world over. The time when nations could enter readily into tariff deals on the basis of clear advantage to each other belong definitely to a past era when countries could be distinguished sharply as either industrial or pastoral. No such line may be drawn between most countries today; if the distinction survives at all, it is likely to be faint.

Obviously, a nation which had only foodstuffs and raw materials to sell could enter into a mutually advantageous tariff arrangement with a country offering mainly the products of industry. But increasingly nowadays formerly pastoral nations are developing secondary industries in order to better balance their economies. That means that any tariff deal encouraging manufactured imports which they may make is going to mean greater competition for their own industrial producers and an increase in unemployment.

This is generally the problem which the GATT negotiators so far have been unable to solve. The theoretical attractions of freely - flowing international trade have been unable to outweigh local industrial fears. As a result only a minimum of progress has been made.

Ottawa circles are hopeful that before the meeting ends the presence of dynamic Trade Minister C. D. Howe may succeed in working some miracle. The Howe personality has been successful before in rescuing international gatherings that appeared headed towards failure. There is hope that history may repeat itself in the matter of GATT. But at the same time it is recognized that the situation confronts the Howe magic with its toughest test yet.

Restful Night For Pope Pius

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Pope Pius passed another fairly restful night but he is still troubled by hiccups, a Vatican source said today.

The Pope, 78, is suffering from a return of the stomach trouble which caused grave fears for his life earlier this year.

Use Want Ads—They Pay

Drew Trip Due To Ill

VANCOUVER (C — posed nine-day visit Columbia by Conserva George Drew has been due to his recent illne to have arrived in Tuesday.

Les Bewley, represe Mr. Drew in Vancouv is unlikely the natio will be able to tour th before the opening ment January 7. Co and pressure of othe will prevent the visit.

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CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT
NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given to the electors of the Municipality of the City of Prince Rupert that I require the presence of the said electors at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Fulton Street, on the second day of December 1954, at ten o'clock a.m. for the purpose of electing persons to represent them as Aldermen, School Trustees and Park Commissioners.

The mode of nomination of candidates shall be as follows:

The candidates shall be nominated in writing; the writing shall be subscribed by two electors of the municipality as proposer and seconder, and shall be delivered to the Returning Officer at any time between the date of the notice and twelve o'clock noon of the day of nomination; the said writing may be in the form numbered 3 in the Schedule of the "Municipal Elections Act" and shall state the names, residence, and occupation or description of each person proposed, in such manner as sufficiently to identify such candidate; and in the event of a poll being necessary, such poll shall be opened on the ninth day of December 1954, at the Civic Centre, corner of McBride Street and Second Avenue, of which every person is hereby required to take notice and govern himself accordingly.

Given under my hand at Prince Rupert this 23rd day of November, 1954.

R. W. LONG,
Returning Officer.

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Subscriptions may be made to Bank of Canada, Ottawa, through any investment dealer eligible to act as a primary distributor or through any bank in Canada. An official prospectus may be obtained from any Agency of the Bank of Canada.

These Bonds will be a direct obligation of the Canadian National Railway Company, the Capital Stock of which is owned by Canada, and under authority of the Parliament of Canada payment of the principal of these Bonds and of the interest thereon will be guaranteed unconditionally by the Government of Canada.

The cash proceeds will be used by the Canadian National Railway Company to repay temporary interest-bearing capital advances from the Government of Canada and for capital expenditures of the Company.

Subscriptions will be received subject to rejection or allotment in whole or in part. The books of the Loan will open on December 1, 1954, at Bank of Canada, Ottawa, and may be closed at any time without notice.

OTTAWA, November 29, 1954.