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Social Credit's Test

WITH dramatic effect, at least as far as the press and radio are concerned, Bruce Brown, MLA, is ripping into what is beginning to look like the weakest point in the Social Credit government's armor—namely Lands and Forests Minister Robert Sommers.

Mr. Brown not only has had a part in bringing to light some embarrassing circumstances affecting construction of the Cassiar-Stewart road but has put the government in a defensive position over the RCMP investigation proceeding into Mr. Sommers' affairs. In doing so, he has helped to present the Social Crediters with what is perhaps the liveliest and most dangerous opposition they have encountered since taking office almost four years ago.

However well Mr. Sommers is able to acquit himself, there seems to be no doubt that in his important position he has been guilty of serious carelessness. The poor supervision of the Cassiar-Stewart road, which in one instance led it into a river several hundred yards off its intended course, would be laughable if the taxpayers' hard-won money were not involved. Added to this is the remarkable fact that the work was given to a small company allegedly associated with Mr. Sommers' constituency which did not even have to bid competitively to land the job. If nothing else, Mr. Sommers has shown a gullible attitude in the handling of important undertakings.

Despite this cross which unexpectedly it is bearing, there is no real evidence yet that the government is losing its grip or yielding to the complacency which has proved the downfall of so many governments before. On the contrary, it is abounding with spirit and must be credited with taking a broader interest in the province than has been shown for a long time. Premier Bennett's plan to extend the PGE railway north and south will not get him many immediate votes—in fact, it may lose him some—but he is taking a chance on opening up the province in a manner that requires foresight and nerve.

In addition the government's plans, and to some extent proved accomplishment, in connection with northern highway development will not go unappreciated by a section of the province which has long been handicapped by poor roads. Improvement of Highway 16 has not been easily won and if Chambers of Commerce, boards of trade and others had not been so insistent, it may never have become an avowed government project. But once the black-top is down, it will not be difficult to forget the harangue that went before.

Even its worst enemies must admit that the Social Credit party in B.C. has come a long way since it rushed into power over the broken body of Coalition. But the true test of its maturity in handling this power has only now begun.

Dr. Earle Birney

If anyone is interested in the damnation of Vancouver, tonight is the time to indulge this fancy when Dr. Earle Birney discusses his play by that name.

However, this remark is made more to catch the eye than anything else for Dr. Birney's talk at the Civic Centre is not actually designed for those who happen to bear a grudge against the big city to the south. It is intended rather for all who like to read, listen to the radio and are curious to know how the writers prepare their work.

There is no one better equipped than Dr. Birney to speak on such a topic for he is one of Canada's foremost creative authors, a leading student of literature and is thoroughly at home behind the microphone. In sponsoring his appearance here, the Civic Centre is starting an experiment which should add much to public enjoyment and education. Dr. Birney is the first of a series of top-flight speakers who will give talks on a wide variety of subjects calculated to interest almost everyone.

Dr. Birney is a welcome visitor to Prince Rupert and we trust his time here will be well rewarded by a good attendance.

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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Flashback

THE fiery exchange between ex-President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur is most important for the point on which they agreed. That was that the President fired the famous soldier because the soldier had written a letter to a Republican Congressman.

MacArthur's letter was to Congressman Joseph Martin, a Republican from Massachusetts. It advocated the use of Chiang Kai-shek's troops in the war in Korea. It was the opinion of the U.S. government then, and of all the other governments of countries assisting the U.S. in Korea, that such use of Chiang's troops would have involved the western world in a major war with China.

I THINK I had the honor of being the very first newspaper writer in Canada to advocate the use of Canadian troops to assist U.S. forces in Korea. But I pointed out, in the very first article I wrote on the Korean crisis, that General Douglas MacArthur's ostentatious trip to Formosa might involve the allies in a major war with China. Unfortunately, my prediction came all too true.

Readers may recall the famous picture taken of MacArthur being low and kissing the hand of Madame Chiang Kai-shek. That carefully staged photograph was published all over the world. But it was meant to tell the story which it did tell to all the hundreds of millions of people of Asia—namely, that the United States was not only resisting the Communist aggression in Korea, but at the same time supporting Chiang Kai-shek in his bid to make a comeback as the head of the government of China.

In other words, the group in the U.S.A. which was headed by MacArthur, Senator Knowland and others, was using the war in Korea as the excuse to further a policy which was not that of the Democratic administration of that period; and which was diametrically opposed to the policy of Britain, Canada and the other close allies of the United States.

Hence, the final firing of General Douglas MacArthur was only the culmination of a clash of wills which was evident from the very first day of the Korea war.

BRAVE little President Truman—one of the most honest and rugged characters of this century—was properly determined to stop the aggression from North Korea. In that determination, he deserved, and quickly won, the support of the other really staunch supporters of the UN principle. Unfortunately for Truman, his Commander-in-the-Far-East had quite different objectives in mind. MacArthur honestly thought that he knew better than his Commander-in-Chief, the President. He was determined to fight as big a war as he could.

For nearly half a century research workers have been seeking a safe method of protecting people against the devastating onslaught of polio. From early results, following the immunization of over 1,000,000 school children in North America last year, it seems conclusive that the Salk vaccine will effectively protect against polio.

One phase of the battle is won. A sure, safe method of preventing, but not curing polio has been found.

While public attention has been focused upon the development of the vaccine, research has not been stopped on cures for polio. A cure is as essential as a preventive if polio is to be beaten. The use of the stop-gap gamma globulin, in the prevention of paralysis in polio cases, is an example of what dedicated research can achieve.

Egypt and Iraq have been on the outs since the latter government took a leading part in formation of the Western-backed Baghdad defence alliance. Egypt is pushing a neutralist Arab policy in the East-West cold war.

The Arab meeting to consider ways of halting "Israeli aggression" was proposed by Jordan Premier Samir al-Ulfi during a weekend visit. El Ulfi flew on to Saudi Arabia to push his proposal.

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

In these days of complicated and often highly delicate personal and political relationships, what is the fate of a diplomat who isn't properly backed up by a public relations officer who understands what it's all about?

For an answer to that one just check with British High Commissioner Sir Archibald Nye, current victim along Embassy Row of a completely incompetent and non-functioning public relations set-up.

Screaming headlines are proclaiming Sir Archibald to be in a spot of trouble. Some of his recent speeches have stirred up the proverbial hornet's nest. Not that there was anything especially sensational in them. They merely stated the case for recognition of Communist China in a particularly forthright way, and added a few other comments on the political situation in Asia.

But recognition of Communist China is a political question. And a diplomat from abroad normally doesn't make public speeches on subjects of domestic political controversy. Some newspaper reports are suggesting

that Sir Archibald may be recalled to London for his indiscretions. Actually, the reports of Sir Archibald's difficulties are greatly exaggerated. There is no likelihood whatever of his recall. He is easily the most popular Britisher to be stationed in Ottawa since the days of Lord Byng. A distinguished soldier with an almost shy personality but a charm of sense of humor, he has made himself an almost legendary figure.

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The current Nye incident has served to focus Ottawa diplomatic attention upon the shortcomings of the existing United Kingdom public relations setup, which long have been a subject of conversation in diplo-

Report From

PARLIAMENT

By E. T. APPLEWHITTE, MP Skeena

Not much progress is being made, I must admit, with my little project for a triangular radio network, Kitimat-Terrace-Prince Rupert. However it isn't entirely dead.

We have established that the cost of "reversible current" is slightly more than double that of a one-way circuit. On that fact together with the uncertainty of future financing of the CBC, the management turned down the idea. However, Mr. Dunton, chairman of the CBC, advises me that with the development of the community at Kitimat this decision will no doubt be revised from time to time to see whether the altered circumstances would merit another decision. I have given him some pretty impressive facts on the development of the community at Kitimat."

Condolences to Chris Elkins on his unfortunate accident. Really, Chris, at your age one shouldn't try to do the highland fling on ice.

Congratulations to a former Prince Rupertite, now one of Klitimat's leading citizens, R. E. (Monty) Montador, new president of the Klitimat Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt that with Monty at the helm, the Klitimat Chamber will give its MP little opportunity for rest and relaxation.

I was interested in the visit to Prince Rupert of Chief Executive Commissioner Finlay of the Boy Scout Association. The Boy Scout movement is a popular one here. I notice frequent references in the press to the interest taken by His Excellency the Governor-General.

I have every reason to believe that part of the \$67,000 I've voted for completion of the Okanagan Narrows dredging will be used to undertake some additional work in that relatively undeveloped area which will enable the channel to be used successfully, not only by boats of the fishing industry but also for log-towing.

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