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Northern Defence Road

A GREAT deal is heard these days about defence projects in the field of transportation. In fact, they are even building a seaway deep into the heart of the continent in the name of defence; although we doubt that Toronto and other inland cities are likely to be attacked by an enemy's ocean fleets. If they were, it would serve the enemy right if he got stuck in this big bottle neck.

However, there is one defence project which stands out as an A-1 priority, and which is not even being discussed by the people who should now already be building it. That is a northern highway route, from Winnipeg to Edmonton and on to Prince Rupert.

The men who built the railway from Jasper to Prince George, to Terrace and Prince Rupert, and who visualised that latter city as one of the world's major ports, were not crazy. They were merely premature and dreaming too far ahead.

Today, by all standards, Prince Rupert is one of the key locations in defence planning on the Pacific; and it will be, as it was during the years of the war against Japan, one of our most strategic ports.

A highway westward to Edmonton and on to the interior of British Columbia and to the coast at Prince Rupert should have Trans-Canada Highway standards. It should be part and parcel of the Yellowhead route, which ultimately will have to be built anyway to supplement that part of the Trans-Canada Highway that now goes via Calgary and Banff on to Vancouver.

Canada's development is taking place in the north, not along the wheat fields of the southern prairies. Canada's defence will also have to be played out in years and decades to come in the northern reaches of the land not in the approaches to Milwaukee, Grand Forks and Bonners Ferry.

Plans for the Yellowhead route should no more be set aside and neglected than plans for irrigation and river development in Saskatchewan. These two schemes, in either peace or war, are likely to have a much more profoundly beneficial influence on the economy and social structure of this country than the boondoggling real estate deals up and down the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

—Financial Times.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

A COMMON PLAGUE

A Detroit doctor warns that resting cannot be habit-forming and harmful. Everything we like is cursed. —

A doctor suggests that stretching the neck is a good cure for headaches. In an earlier era it was an excellent cure for horse thieves.

It's becoming harder and harder to put on the dog. Not too long ago all you needed was a pair of ink-stained fingers to convince people that you owned a fountain pen.

We like the story about the colored gentleman testifying at the trial of a lady of questionable repute.

"Tell me," asked the prosecuting attorney, "Was the defendant expressively garbed when you saw her?"

"She sure was, suh," answered the witness. "Ah knows expensive garbage when I sees it."

Who was it recently remarked that it is actually possible to live an entire lifetime without ever being on time.

This is the season when Nature turns over a lot of new leaves. All husbands need do is rake them up.

If your boss is an old crank, maybe he wouldn't be if you were a self starter.

Alex Munthe, humanitarian and author, was once asked five questions, to which he gave five answers. These were:

What human quality do you rate the highest? Answer: Courage.

What would you miss most in life: A sense of humor.

What do you consider the most important invention in the history of man?—Wine.

What is the essence of a happy marriage? The capacity to forgive.

What do you regard as life's greatest boon?—Answer: Sudden death.

AUSSIE FLAG

OTTAWA (CP)—A national flag designed by a schoolboy flew on Parliament Hill during the Colombo plan conferences here. It was Australia's Southern Cross ensign, designed by a schoolboy whose entry was picked 50 years ago from 30,000 different designs.

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- WRANGELL
- PETERSBURG
- JUNEAU

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DIAL 2223

As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

P.S. For the Boss

OUR newspaper has just sent me a new Canadian Press style book. It is a sort of rule book which decides tricky questions of particular interest to the newspaper craft.

For instance, it tells writers and editors not to put more than 40 or 50 words in a paragraph. They did not need to tell that to us columnists! But what a hardship it would be on some of our novelists.

But it also rules on really tricky questions, such as that we are not to refer to a Chinest man as a Chinaman, nor call a Scotsman a Scotchman, nor a Briton a Britisher, or a Japanese a Jap. We are warned to distinguish between the Welsh language and Welch regiments—but a double warning that the Welsh Guards must not be called the Welch Guards.

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ON THE more familiar fields, we are told to use the "or" endings on such words as honor, labor, and not make them honour, or labour. But even there is a single exception—we must write the sacred word "Saviour," including the "u."

The rule book lays down that Oxford English Dictionary spellings are to be followed. That means that we must write it defence, and not defense. That is fine with me, as I was brought up to spell defence defence, and not defense. But as our paper has been using the "se" endings on such words it is going to take some people some time to get used to the CP rule.

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THE Canadian Press style book says—and says all too tersely to suit me—that the word "like" is not to be misused. It declares: " 'Like' is not a conjunction."

Hurrah, hurrah. It is time somebody in authority stamped hard on that monstrous mistake. Believe it or not, I even heard somebody on the CBC say something like this the other day:

"It looks like Britain and China are coming to terms" or "it looks like the Hurricane Hazel will strike inland tonight." The proper usage, of course would have been::

"It looks as if Britain and China are coming to terms" or "it looks as if the Hurricane Hazel will strike inland tonight."

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WHILE I think the Canadian Press is right in standing on guard against what the style book rather snootily calls "vulgarisms from south of the border" I am not quite so sure they are right in rejecting one rather sensible American trend.

The new CP style book says that the proper spelling of the past tense of a word like travel is travelled, not traveled. I am an old time double-consonant man myself, but I believe we are on the wrong track. It is just a waste of good space, not to mention the cost of the extra type, ink and paper.

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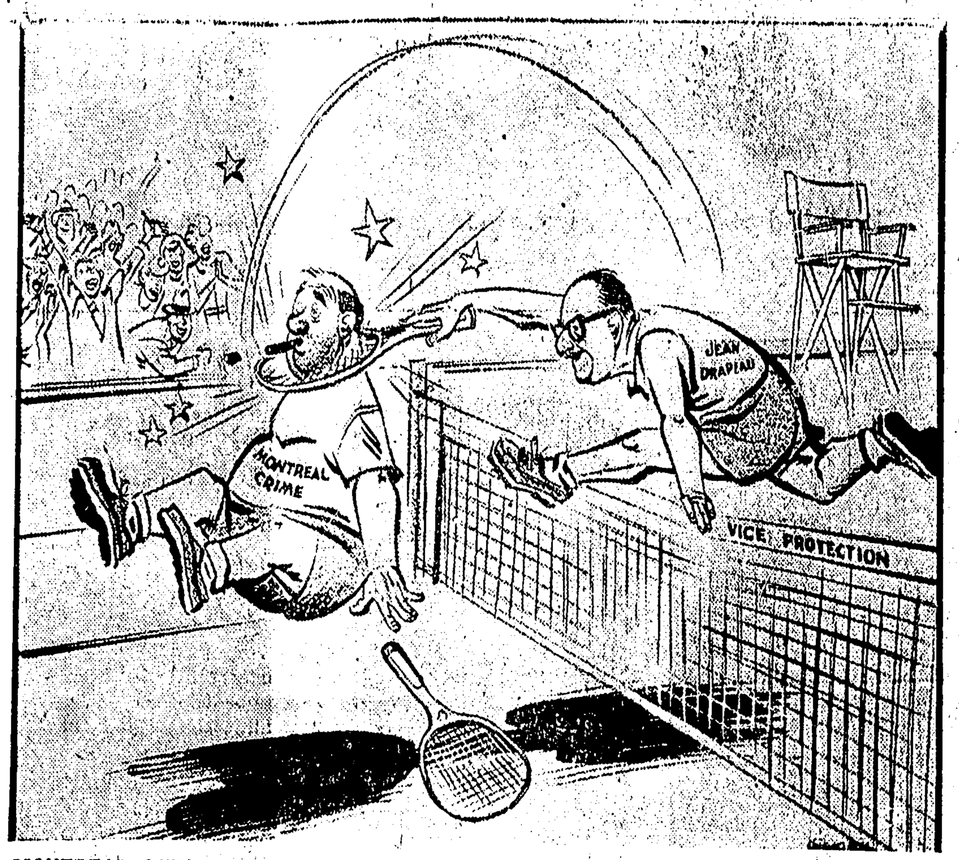
HERE is a P.S. for the boss—the publisher of this paper:

Dear Boss—Don't you think it would be a good idea to offer a standing prize of, say, one dollar for any reader who can discover, and report, a mistake in grammar in our paper?

For instance, suppose we had reported that "It looks like Hurricane Hazel will strike inland tonight." Hundreds of alert readers might spot the mistake. Maybe 10 or 20 would write in. In case more than one reader spotted the same mistake, the one whose letter was first postmarked might be declared the winner.

I do not think it would be practical to offer the dollar prize for detecting mistake in spelling as these are often mechanical errors.



MONTREAL GETS A "RACKET-BUSTING" MAYOR — By Charles A. Grassick in Toronto Telegram. (CP Photo)

Montreal's New Mayor Drapeau Poised For Big City Cleanup

MONTREAL (CP)—Natty little Jean Drapeau, his new broom primed for action, takes office as mayor today with a chance to sweep out the vice cobwebs which he says have been accumulating in this gay old city for years.

The 38-year-old lawyer, who romped to victory in civic elections more than a week ago, delayed taking office until the deadline for requesting a judicial recount passed Tuesday night. Since his nearest opponent polled some 50,000 fewer votes than he did, none of the eight men who ran against him bothered to ask for another tabulation.

Mr. Drapeau has said that one of his first acts on taking over at city hall will be to suspend police director J. Albert Langlois, one of the central figures in a 3½-year vice inquiry that wound up with a scathing indictment of 20 members and former members of the police department for tolerating vice between 1941 and 1950.

VERDICT APPEALED

Police director Langlois was ordered dismissed, banned from public office for one year and fined $500, in a judgment handed down by Mr. Justice Francois Caron. Langlois appealed the verdict and went back to his office pending a hearing.

The city council had the political hot potato tossed into its lap on the eve of the civic elections and quickly threw it back to the city executive committee for "further legal study." The study was still going on election day when Mr. Drapeau and 27 fellow members of the Civic Action League, who favored the police Chief's suspension, were swept into office.

Queen Elizabeth To Be Name Of New CN Hotel

Special to The Daily News

MONTREAL—The name of the new hotel which the Canadian National Railways is building in Montreal, will be the Queen Elizabeth.

Announceemnt of the name follows receipt of a letter from his excellency the Governor-General to Donald Gordon informing him that "Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to grant permission that the new Canadian National Railways Hotel in Montreal should be called 'The Queen Elizabeth.'"

Mr. Gordon said that from the day when it was made known that the company would build a large convention hotel in Montreal, hundreds of people had written him suggesting names for it.

"The suggestions," he said "covered a wide range of historical and geographical names, but by far the largest number of both French and English-speaking citizens writing me wished the name to be identified in some form with the Crown.

"However, before any action could be taken, it was necessary to obtain the views of Her Majesty. This was done through official channels and, as stated, we are now authorized to announce that with the personal permission of Her Majesty, the largest hotel in the Commonwealth will bear the most illustrious name in the Commonwealth.

Work on the Queen Elizabeth Hotel which will contain more than 1,200 rooms, is proceeding on schedule. The foundation and other work necessary for the erection of steel and to tie the hotel to Central Station is keeping pace with plans. If nothing occurs to interfere with present rate of progress the intention of having the hotel ready for occupancy in 1957 will be realized.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

From gossip around Opposition Party circles it is becoming increasingly apparent that the incident of the Canadian Ambassador who didn't stay to dinner at the Burmese Embassy in Moscow is going to provide a lively subject of debate at the coming session of Parliament.

Both Progressive Conservative and CCF sources have indicated that they are far from satisfied with External Affairs Minister Pearson's defence of the Canadian Ambassador's behaviour. They feel, furthermore, that they have a fairly strong case to press.

Minister Pearson explained to Press Gallery correspondents that Canada's John Watkins left the gathering because of the presence of the Ambassadors of Communist China and Communist East Germany—and because during the course of the evening toasts presumably would be drunk to these countries and he would be put in the embarrassing position of having to refrain from them, since the Canadian government officially recognizes neither regime.

What the PC's and the CCF-ers want to know, however, is whether, on this principle, Canada's Ambassador is going to have to refuse similar hospitality invitations from the British Empassy in Moscow or in other capitals? For the United Kingdom recognizes Communist China even if Canada doesn't. And in any world capital in which a British Ambassador entertains, the Ambassador of Communist China is very likely to be among the guests. Is the Canadian Ambassador, therefore, going to have to boycott British Ambassadorial functions in many world centres?

Any rule of diplomatic usage which would lead to this result seems to the opposition parties to carry its condemnation right on its face. And the PC's and the CCF-ers want to know whether Canada's foreign service personnel are getting so bemused by the wooden convention of striped pants diplomacy as to debar themselves from sitting at the same table with the foreign officers of the United Kingdom. They are prepared to argue on the floor of Parliament that any such situation represents the heighth of absurdity.

There is considerable interest in Parliament Hill circles to see whether, in the face of the point which the Opposition parties plan to raise, Minister Pearson will maintain his defence of the conduct of Ambassador Watkins at the Burmese dinner. Pearson already has conceded that the Burmese Minister, in planning the dinner party, acted in good faith and from the most worthy motives. Being a relatively inexperienced diplomat, he simply thought it would be a good idea to bring a mixed bag of guests together and see what fraternization would do to improve relationships amongst them. Parliament Hill opposition sources are inclined to argue that this was a purpose in itself in which the Canadian Ambassador should have been prepared to co-operate.

At all events the controversy has the makings of a first-class argument. It should do much to enliven Parliament.

30 Poisoned At Luncheon

TORONTO (CP)—About 30 members and guests, many of them prominent in Toronto's business and social life, were stricken with violent but not serious food poisoning Tuesday at a luncheon at the Toronto Women's Press Club.

Club president Mrs. A. G. M. Brown collapsed while shopping after the luncheon and her husband was also stricken. Mrs. Richard van Valkenburg, wife of the director of Eaton's art gallery, collapsed in the store and was treated in hospital.

The guest of honor, industrialist E. P. Taylor, said he ate a hearty mean and felt no ill effects.

Newspaper men sitting with him at the head table were violently ill.

Samples of the food are to be examined by provincial laboratory technicians.

VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. P.

VICTORIA — Another Social Credit bulletin comes to this column. It's not, however, an official Social Credit League bulletin.

It says: "Published privately by informed Social Crediters at 2124 West 39th, Vancouver."

How strange this is — published by "informed Social Crediters." Whatever does it mean? Does it mean that whoever these people are, they think members of the official Social Credit League are NOT informed Social Crediters? It's all very bewildering. Has Social Credit two factions in this province? It looks that way, that somewhere, somehow, there's some rivalry within the ranks of Social Credit.

This unofficial Social Credit bulletin used to say that contributions could be sent to this Vancouver address. However, in the last month or so, no contributions are asked for.

The latest bulletin says that the material contained in it is entitled "Bull in China Shop", and it goes on to quote from "Revolt of the Masses" by Jose Ortegay Gassett.

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British Columbia has had more premiers than any other province, more than Canada itself. The turnover in premiers in this province has been quite extraordinary.

What is the reason for this? Does it show we British Columbians, where politics is concerned, are, and always have been, more restless than our brothers across the land?

British Columbia has had 25 premiers since the Crown of British Columbia province of Canada. Canada, since 1867, prime ministers — Sir Macdonald; Hon. A. Sir John Abbott; Thompson; Sir Mackenzie; Sir Charles Tupper; Sir Wilfred Laurier; Sir Robert Arthur Meighen; R. Mackenzie King; Louis St. Laurent.

It was King, with years in office, who created number of government to 12 — not many Macdonald, too, helped cutting-down—for he ministr 19 years. prime ministers 22 years was in office 15 years.

Manitoba has had premiers since 1870; to B.C.'s 25 since Bracken was responsible comparatively few, premier of Manitoba.

Quebec has had since 1867; New Brunswick since 1867; Nova Scotia 1867; Ontario, 16 Prince Edward Island 1875; Alberta, eight Saskatchewan, seven.

These are the dates provinces joined Confederation.

B.C. Willing To Co-Operate On Development

VICTORIA (CP)—British Columbia is willing to co-operate with Alaska and the United States on any mutually beneficial industrial development, Premier Bennett said Tuesday.

He was commenting on an hour-long visit Monday by Governor B. Frank Heintzleman of Alaska. Although Premier Bennett did not disclose the subject of the talks, he indicated they centred around the northern development of B. C. which might involve both Alaska and the Yukon Territories.

100,000 Boxes Of Apples Sent

PENTICTON (CP)—A total of 100,000 boxes of Okanagan apples will have been shipped to the United Kingdom by the end of this week, Carl Stevenson, assistant sales manager of B.C. Tree Fruits Ltd., said Tuesday.

BABY'S COLDS

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Medical Science denies there is any such thing as a cure for colds—only Nature herself can do it. So when baby's sniffles, or stuffy breathing warn you of a cold's presence—cooperate at once with Nature.

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One Nova Scotia Mother says: "My baby of 20 months caught a nasty cold so I tried Baby's Own Tablets and she threw this cold off quicker than ever before. I certainly am for Baby's Own Tablets from now on." Equally good for restlessness and peevishness resulting from irregularity at teething time, for constipation, digestive upsets and other minor infant troubles. Get a package today at druggistores.

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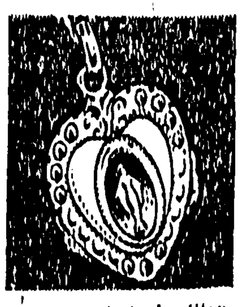

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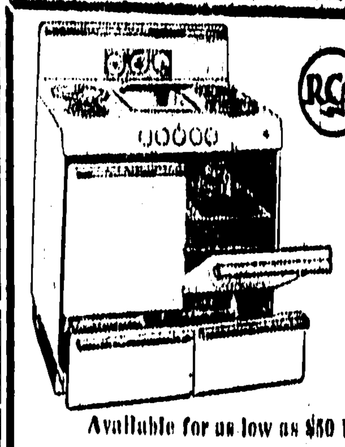

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