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Men at Work

ALTHOUGH their work may be far from finished and their ultimate success is uncertain, there are two committees in the city which make an impressive example of what a few citizens can do without thought of personal reward when the cause is sufficiently pressing. They are the committees which were formed to save the drydock and shipyard and get action on construction of an airport.

Each faced a discouraging task from the start, primarily because a fairly large sum of money was involved which the government was openly unwilling to spend.

In the case of the drydock the difficulty was compounded by the fact that there were figures which purported to show that the installation was operating at a steadily increasing loss. Though the figures were none too specific as to detail, they were sufficient to alarm the government and scare off potential investors. Consequently, the committee's problem was to show how additional business could be obtained and, failing this, to impress on the government its responsibility in retaining facilities for the repair of small vessels.

How far it succeeded will not be known until Fisheries Minister Sinclair, who became the principal—and apparently sympathetic—point of contact, has made his report in Ottawa. But this much is certain—without the committee, all hope for the drydock and shipyard would have perished long ago.

Although the circumstances were less dramatic, the airport committee showed equal resolve to dispel a myth about spending too much money unwisely. Having gained the tacit admission that previous construction cost estimates must have been plucked from some bureaucrat's Homburg in Ottawa, it directed official attention to a site where money might be saved in large quantity and the establishment of an adequate airport realized. Simultaneously it re-awakened the interest of commercial airlines and stressed the point—backed by a willingness to conduct its own survey—that an airport here was an urgent necessity.

It can be said without prejudice that the work of both these committees deserves to succeed. They have taken apart fallacious arguments and replaced them with a convincing new case. But whether success comes or not the effort they have made—and no doubt will continue to make, if necessary—will go down to their lasting credit.

Ray Reflects and Reminiscences

For a good many years Master C. Ronson has permanently reigned in Vancouver. We can say this much for him—he's made a heap of real money in his time.

EASY TO FOLLOW

Eric Nicol of the Province staff was feeling a shade flat the other day. He just had to damn the weather again. "It hasn't gone away," he vowed. In fact all the dull, cold, wet, miserable, shifty, cloud-clogged, pinching, squall-smitten, filthy rotten summers, this one takes the well-known miff.

Woman, trying on dress to herself: My husband has very definite taste. He can't stand me in anything over \$20.

A class in writing was instructed to write a story with a twist, or unexpected ending. Highest grade went to the following: "Will you marry me?" "No." And they lived happily ever after.

A total of about two millions worth of Canada's new folding money has made its appearance in the chartered banks. The currency is slightly smaller than the former bills. And isn't it pathetic, all this assumed public concern over the difference. Personally, we'll gladly accept a five spot, though no larger than a postage stamp. But in any event, the new bills are certain of a hearty welcome, alike in wallet and heart.

Allan Woods, tourist comptroller in Vancouver, says the summer's wet weather contributed to the decrease in tourist traffic there to "a very, very large extent." Not even the major attraction of the British Empire Games could begin to make up for the slump.

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