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## Canada's View of Alaska

**A**LASKA is a foreign territory at Canada's door which is governed from Washington. It is not yet legally one of the states of the American union. Both the Democrats and Republicans are pledged to give Alaska full statehood, the former immediately, the latter "eventually."

This year the people of Alaska, represented by 55 delegates, have been drawing up a constitution which will be put to popular vote on April 24. They held a 75-day conference for the purpose and it seems that Alaska will demand direct, elected representation in Washington, even if statehood is not granted this year.

What interests us is that all this constitutional palaver is occurring right under the noses of Canadians without a quiver of public outcry or even interest in this country.

Where else on this earth's surface could a vast territory of 200,000 people change a political, constitutional course without even a reference to the nation that surrounds it? And is Canada's memory so short that it forgets the Alaska Panhandle controversies of the last century and Wrangell Island of this; is its knowledge of its own geography so slight that it does not recognize the fact that a colony of a foreign country occupies not only half its Pacific coastline but also the northwest continental peninsula which by nature would rightfully be hers?

Self-determination is a worthy national political principle but let us not get soft about it. What right of self-determination did inhabitants of Alaska have when the United States purchased the Territory from Russia in 1867 for \$7,000,000? If Canada had been united that March and her proper interests strongly represented, the United States could not as readily have got away with such brigandry. And now, this Alaska is on the way to full incorporation with the United States, and no protest is heard from Canada.

Further in this matter of self-determination, what tests have been made of Alaskans' opinion as regards complete independence or the possibility of their joining Canada? It is obvious from the deliberations at Fairbanks that not all the people—Americans, Indians, Eskimos and white wanderers—want union with the U.S. and its tax rates and conscription.

Has Canada made any overtures at all towards Alaska? It could become a rich 11th province and give the natives as well as the whites the Canadian baby bonus. Most important, from a geopolitical point of view, Alaska-in-Canada would clear up the anomaly of having an American state where Canada's flag should fly.

We advance these questions without rancor and with no expectation that the Stars and Stripes will ever be removed from Alaska. We wish only to point out how acquiescent Canada has become as regards this formerly disputed territory, and how mild, in a friendly fashion, towards American political consolidation.

Peterborough (Ontario) Examiner.

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## As I See It

By

Elmore  
Philpott

Eskimo Danger  
THE House of Commons heard a remarkable statement the other day in regard to the manning of the northernmost radar line. Mr. Howe had just explained that 80 per cent of the personnel required to man the DEW line would be Canadians. The following exchange then occurred.

Mr. C. D. Howe: "We also have every reason to believe a fair number of Eskimos and Indians resident in the area will be employed on the line."

Mr. Drew: "Does the Minister suggest that Indians and Eskimos are going to take part in the manning and operation of the DEW line?"

Mr. Howe: "Yes. There is certain work in connection with the manning which they are capable of performing, and I understand that a study of the situation has indicated there will be opportunities for employment for Indians and Eskimos to a limited extent."

There is no more mistaken assumption than that primitive people, like Indians and Eskimos, are incapable of fitting themselves into modern life. Given the proper technical training, both Indians and Eskimos can do just as well as the people of other racial origins.

The people who have been working on the construction of the DEW line are loud in their praises of the Eskimo workers who have already been employed on the job. They already have a reputation for hard work, cheerfulness and, above all, honesty and fair dealing. Also, according to most observers, Eskimos as a racial group also have a native-born talent for mechanics. Given a little experience, Eskimos can make engines perform better than the white man can make the same engines perform in the same environment.

So the real question in the far north is not whether the Eskimo population can be fitted in to help work the DEW line, and the other defence establishments.

It is, rather, whether the fitting of the Eskimos to such work may not destroy their long term ability to sustain themselves in their own way.

In other words, is the DEW line a permanent feature of Arctic life? Or is it merely a passing phase of history? If the latter is true, care must be taken to prevent what might be called the de-Eskimoing of the natives there.

THE bad reputation which the North American Indians so unfairly acquired was, in large part, to the fact that the white man destroyed the red men's natural basis of life. He did, so to speak, backed into a corner, demoralized by white man's alcohol, weakened by white man's disease—then criticized by the same white man for inability to live up to white man's standards.

In the far north, the leaders of the churches, as well as the government officials, are well aware of this same danger. If the situation is carelessly handled, the same thing might happen to the Eskimos as happened on a larger scale to too many Indians. But on one point there should be no argument. As a human being, the Eskimo is basically just as good a specimen as the white man. There is very little that has to be done at the DEW line which Eskimos could not learn to do. They should be encouraged to learn to do all good things within their capacity.

Well I can't deal with this properly until I see the paper but at the DEW line which Eskimos could not learn to do. They should be encouraged to learn to do all good things within their capacity.

As a matter of fact, the elevator has been busy this year. I am advised that about 9 million bushels of barley and some 350,000 bushels of wheat have already been cleared through our port this year, with a further 16 million of barley sold for delivery through our port.

May I offer my belated congratulations to Mrs. Lionel Holbycyn, her appointment as Director Commissioner of the Red Cross? I can't think of any one who would do a better job.

I have been receiving frantic wires and long distance phone calls (not all from Prince Rupert) about a statement or editorial supposed to have appeared in the Daily News indicating that Mr. Marler had made the statement that there would be no story on the Rupert airfield in 1957.

Well I can't deal with this properly until I see the paper but I'm tempted to say just one word: "Rubbish."

I have contacted Mr. Marler who is unable to explain what he said—so how could he have stated and I would hope the reporter would use heavy type here that it is the hope of the Department that actual work on the construction of the airport can start early in 1957, I'd repeat that for emphasis.

The Minister of Transport is



AN ESKIMO MOTHER proudly holds up her baby as she meets Governor-General Massey at Great Whale River, in northern Quebec, 650 miles north of Ottawa. The east coast settlement on Hudson Bay was the first stop of Mr. Massey's 17-day air tour of the Arctic. (CP from National Film Board.)

## Report From

## PARLIAMENT

By E. T. APPLEWHITE, MP Skeena

There has been considerable interest in Prince Rupert—and considerable uncertainty—about the plans of the RCMP for accommodation there; and the uncertainty is quite understandable in view of the items of information, or lack of information, emanating from Ottawa. So I have had the Department of Justice bring me up to date on the subject.

The Department of Public Works was requested last November to prepare plans and specifications preliminary to calling for tenders for two semi-detached dwellings on the ground obtained from the province. These two dwellings will accommodate four families and will be part of a twelve-family housing project which is eventually planned for this site.

The Department of Fisheries has seen to it that the responsibilities of the Dominion Department with regard to salmon fisheries has been outlined to the Royal Commission on Forestry. This of course was in connection with the care of fisher-people's interests which must be taken by logging companies. Fisheries of tidal waters are entirely a Dominion responsibility. And of those the salmon are the ones whose spawning requirements must be preserved and protected against incursions by logging or industrial enterprises.

C. D. Howe now has a resolution on the order paper reading: "That it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament approve the ratification by Canada of the Agreement on Trade between Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed at Ottawa on February 29, 1956, and that this House do approve the same."

In connection with the purchases made so far by the Russians they have bought the wheat for delivery to them at Canadian ports. The possible use of the Prince Rupert elevator for any particular sale will be decided in each case when the specific lot is sold. That this increased westward movement will result in a busy year for the Rupert elevator is assured.

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## OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN  
M. MACLEOD

There used to be an old saying to the effect that any truly democratic people receive exactly—or at least approximately—the sort of government they deserve. Just what damage that would have brought upon the PC's in Canada isn't visible.

Today that maxim is being questioned. But only because it implies that, as a by product of getting the government they deserve, the Canadian people are also the recipients of the opposition they deserve.

Over the week-end veteran Parliamentary observers have been disputing vehemently the idea that the Canadian people deserve the sort of opposition that was indicated in the speech of PC budget critic J. M. Macdonnell. They regard it as a combination of impudent and craven performance which shouldn't have insulted the intelligence of any democratic people.

For more than 20 years now the PC's have been forced to live in a political world which hasn't been to their liking. As a result they have apparently—to judge from Macdonnell's performance in the present budget debate—escaped into a dream world of their own making. They fancy that they can accuse the government of playing shady politics at the top of their voice, without having their own motives questioned. They don't realize apparently, that the Opposition is just as much on trial before the bar of public opinion as is the government. Or apparently budget critic Macdonnell doesn't realize that elementary fact.

As a result, budget critic Macdonnell poured upwards of an hour of literary—and labored, if not exactly withering—sarcasm upon the latest Harris do-nothing budget. In all his speech he devoted not a single syllable to the one sensational feature of the budget—namely its enactment of legislation against Time, The Reader's Digest, and similar United States publications.

The principle of the legislation was protection. That should have gained it an approving word or two from the Tory budget spokesman. But an approv-

U.K. Daily  
Says Canada  
Maginot Line

LONDON (UPI)—The Daily Telegraph describes Canada's vast Arctic northland as "not only the Eldorado but also the Maginot line" of North America.

In an editorial commenting on Governor-General Massey's Arctic tour, the newspaper says Canada's northern territories are expanding economically "at a truly arresting pace."

"Seventy-five years ago it was the western Prairies that challenged Canada's spirit of adventure. Today it is the Far North, with its rich mineral resources still largely unexplored."

The newspaper says both the Canadian government and private enterprise are tackling the natural obstacles, lack of roads and railways, "with typical energy and confidence."

Enough is known to predict a glorious future for the vast, silent desert."

In a front-page story, The Daily Telegraph describes how the RCAF has established "without fanfare" a key base in the Western world for northern defence and development, situated at Resolute bay on Cornwallis Island, 500 miles inside the Arctic circle.

## LUCKY TRAVELLER

TOKYO (UPI)—Pan American World Airways presented a string of pearls to Mrs. Betty E. Beard, the 250,000th passenger flown across the Pacific by the airline since Captain Beard's 1947 flight from Louisville, Kentucky.

She was presented with a diamond bracelet.

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