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Five-Day Shopping Week

IT IS entirely logical that retail merchants of Prince Rupert should seek to have a full day closing each week. The difficulty of finding staff and working shifts to handle the extra half-day is obviously out of all proportion to the small amount of business carried on. In addition, it is evident from the almost deserted streets that one now sees downtown on Thursday mornings that by and large the public will not be inconvenienced.

In the choice of Wednesday as closing day, the primary consideration is that this evidently best suits the requirements of the merchants themselves. The public will surely make no protest if the merchants consider that by closing Wednesday, they will lose a minimum of business and at the same time be in a better position to line up their stock. If this adds to the efficiency of stores, it will by the same token add to the convenience of customers.

While bringing to a head the complications of operating on a half-day each week, the issue of the five-day week has achieved the simultaneous benefit of reviving the Prince Rupert Retail Merchants' association. Competition in business is healthy only so long as merchants are not working at such odds with each other that everyone suffers, including the public. Inevitably there are certain problems common to all which must be tackled on the basis of mutual agreement if needless hardships and loss of trade are to be avoided.

The petition that the association is putting out with respect to the five-day week merits the consideration of all.

Prince Rupert's Case Heard

IN THE question of whether Canada should negotiate with the U.S. for corridors through the Alaska Panhandle to provide free access into northern B.C., this newspaper has taken the stand that no such corridors should be sought without prior consideration being given to existing Canadian ports in the north, such as Prince Rupert. The same position was successfully taken by the local Chamber of Commerce at the recent convention of the associated boards of trade of Central B.C.

It appears now that Prince Rupert's case is making itself heard beyond this immediate region. An editorial in The Vancouver Province says, in part:

Right from the start of the Panhandle argument, the good people of Prince Rupert have been opposed to the corridor plan because they knew there was an alternative—and they also knew that their city stood to profit greatly from it.

The alternative is the construction of a road system—and, perhaps, eventually of a railway—running up the back of the Panhandle.

The Stewart-Cassiar mining access road, now under construction, is a part of precisely such a system and a proof that the obstacles are not insuperable.

And the Frobisher-Ventures Nass River project, now under study, is a small foretaste of the type of development to which the area is entitled.

If Frobisher-Ventures' much bigger project—that for the Yukon and Taku Rivers—can, so to speak, be turned inland, delivering its power southward toward Prince Rupert instead of using it at the head of Taku Inlet on the Panhandle border, Prince Rupert will be in a position to dream a great dream.

It is the dream of becoming a second Vancouver, an industrial complex drawing the power and resources of northern British Columbia on a scale equal to that on which this city draws those of the south and centre of the province.



As I See It

by
Elmore Philpott

Too Many Parties

THE one sure thing which emerges from the confused provincial elections picture in Canada in 1936 is that the two-party system temporarily is a thing of the past.

The other sure thing which emerges is that we have at least two parties too many to give really good government across this country.

The real question is how to get this country back to a stable and sensible two-party system—for experience plainly shows that democracy is like a two-way road, where nothing else really works as well as the two-party system.

PERHAPS the most ominous fact on the political horizon in Canada today is that the once grand old Conservative party of Sir John A. Macdonald is fighting with its back to the wall for its very existence. Only in two of the ten provinces of Canada do the Conservatives hold the reins of government. But even more significant is the fact that the Conservatives have been almost totally eliminated from several other provinces.

Perhaps the deadliest omen of all is that in the entire Province of Quebec not a single candidate was elected under the Conservative banner. Notwithstanding the fact that French Canada is the bulwark of genuine Conservatism in this country; and notwithstanding the fact that the Province of Quebec was as strongly Tory in Sir John A. Macdonald's day as Ontario itself, the name Conservative has virtually disappeared from French Canada.

IT IS no secret that the real target of the Social Credit party is the total and final elimination of the old traditional Tory party. Notwithstanding the severe setback to Social Credit ambitions in Saskatchewan, it is too soon yet to say that the Social Credits will not eventually succeed.

Of course, Mr. Bennett is a political gambler of Paul Bunyan proportions. It is possible that he might try to change the political picture in Canada by effecting a merger, or re-union, with the party from whom he personally split. But, barring some such development, which is not in the open as of now, Canada seems to be in for a prolonged period of multi-party confusion.

Only in the four Atlantic provinces has the traditional Conservative versus Liberal pattern survived—though even in New Brunswick Social Credit has some hope of supplanting the traditional Tories.

SOME Liberals foolishly exult in the fact that their party is the only organization which survives everywhere in Canada on both a provincial and national basis. It is a fact that in every province in Canada except in B.C., the Liberals are either the government or the recognized opposition; and everyone in B.C. knows that the Liberals are regarded as the likeliest alternative to the present regime.

But the more thoughtful Liberals are concerned at the increasing tendency to chaos in Canada, which results from the crumbling of the old stability without any sign, so far, of the emergence of two clear-cut alternative groupings.

Some theorists in Ottawa incline to view that we are in for a long period of political instability in Canada, with the effective opposition based on provincial regimes carrying various party tags, and united in nothing except their demands on the federal government.

Even the pipeline debate shows

ed no clarification of this confused picture. The opposition was stronger than it had been for generations in Canada. Yet the opposition was comprised of two parties which are fundamentally poles apart in their thinking, whereas the government was upheld by the Social Credit party—which many people in western Canada regard as the surviving champion of conservatism in Canada.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

When Hon. George Drew raised the perennial question of Senate Reform in the House of Commons this week, he raised a question that strikes a mild form of terror into the heart of nearly every honorable member of the Upper House, and a question that has had the open support among government members. But the overriding fact in all this was that little if nothing either can be done, or is likely to be done, about it. The Senate, in short, is here to stay. It all sounds very simple, on the surface. Everyone generally agrees that a second chamber in the Canadian Parliament, in which the Opposition has been reduced, by the natural death rate of its members and the longevity of the administration which appoints its supporters, to half a dozen in a total membership of over 100, has a good many arguments against it. So, they say, it should be reformed.

How it should be reformed, the reformists can't agree. A maximum age limit, an age at which Senators should be forced to retire, would rule out a good many men who still have a great contribution to make to the nation. An elective and provincially-appointed Senate would never be accepted, by whatever government was in power for the time being in the Lower House.

M. J. Coldwell, the highly regarded and high profile leader of the CCF party in the Commons, gave the simple Socialist solution to the problem of the Senate. Abolish it, he said. "Everybody talks about the Senate but nobody ever does anything about it."

But apart from the Socialists, and even perhaps including a number of them, there are many in politics who believe there should be a "second thought" given to some precipitous actions the Commons might take. That was the thought in the mind of Sir John A. Macdonald, before Confederation, and it was confirmed only a few years ago when the House passed a bill in a fit of nationalist fervor to virtually wipe out Dominion Day as a national holiday. The Senate stopped it.

The whole debate on Senate reform, fortunately, a good many veteran political observers would agree, came to nothing simply because the Senate is here to stay. Deep all the sound and furor, a simple two-point fact remained unchallenged. First, the Senate is firmly established by the British North America Act. And second, no move to amend the Act, or to pass a bill to abolish the Senate, could pass without the Senate's concurrence. And what group of 50 legislators is going to legislate itself out of existence?

U.S. Air Defence Chief Says CF-100 "Quite Slow"

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Printed testimony given to a United States Senate armed forces committee makes sober reading for Canadians.

In fact, the transcript of the committee's deliberations, just made available here, has more to say about capabilities of the Canadian air defence system than has been given in the Canadian government's recent white paper on defence or by Defence Minister Campney in the Commons. Chief witness before the U.S. Senate committee was Gen. Earle E. Partridge, commander of the U.S. air defence system. He said of the RCAF's CF-100 jet interceptor, Canada's main defence weapon: "It is very good for their (Canadian) purposes in that it has long range. The only difficulty is that the aircraft is of post-war design and it is quite slow."

CANT MATCH ALTITUDE—Gen. Partridge went on to say that American interceptors now in squadron service can't fly high enough to attack jet bombers which the Russians have in operation. He added that in 1937, 1938 and early 1939, the air defence system would not be in "too good shape."

Gen. Partridge also said Canada and the U.S. need better radar equipment. At present, the radar was not efficient in detecting planes at high or low altitudes though it performed fairly well at intermediate heights. It was not expected that complete radar coverage would be available over southern Canada—the DEW (Distant Early Warning) line in the Arctic and the Mid-Canada fence along the 55th parallel. Most of the Pine-tree radar chain, located in southern Canada, it controls the operations of the interceptors.

The U.S. Air Force soon will begin to put into operation a control system known as SAGE. The letters stand for Semi-Automatic Ground Environment.

WANTS IT FOR CANADA—SAGE, designed to increase capability of the U.S. air defence system five to 10 times, will reduce to automation practically every essential step in the air defence process.

Gen. Partridge said: "So far the SAGE system has been programmed to cover only the continental U.S. We believe it essential that Canada one day have some equipment of the same general type as SAGE for control purposes. Introduction of SAGE should result in a very marked improvement in our air defence capability." Gen. Partridge told the committee the Russians have enough bombers to launch an initial at-

tack on North America employing hundreds of bombers. Fifty thermonuclear bombs on target would destroy 60 per cent of U.S. industry, 40 per cent of the population.

Gen. Partridge indicated the U.S. Air Force wants to assume control for the entire North American air defence system, including the RCAF's air defence command.

The Canadian defence department so far has objected to one overall commander for the air defence system because this would place Canadian defence units under an American commander.



BRIG. J. W. BISHOP, OBE.



BRIG. GEORGE KITCHING, CBE, DSO, CD.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS in Ottawa today announced that Brigadier Joseph W. Bishop, CBE, 48, commander of the Canadian Army staff at Washington, D.C., is to be appointed commander British Columbia area during September, 1936.

Also announced was the appointment of Brigadier George Kitching, CBE, DSO, CD, 45, commander of the British Columbia area, who visited Prince Rupert to inspect the local militia in May, to be employed in the General Staff branch at Army headquarters, effective October 1.

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Beauties Sought for Film Of Canadian Woman's Book

LONDON (CP)—Film representatives will tour European countries shortly in search of international beauties to play in the film Les Girls, based on the book of the same name by Canadian-born Constance Tomkinson. In a review, John Cornwell of The Evening News, a London newspaper, said: "Her book cheerful to the point of hilarity, courageous, shrewd and readable." The writer now lives in London with her British husband.

Producer Sol C. Siegel of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will arrange contests in Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Belgium. Filming will start in September, with Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron and Milzi Gaynor heading the cast.

Miss Tomkinson, a clergyman's daughter born in Canso, N.S., wrote the book based on her experiences as a dancer. She joined the Folies Bergeres in the 1930s and toured the Continent with the troupe.

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