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Logical Site for Power Plan

MAYBE the advantages of our own port of Prince Rupert tend to limit our perspective but as the hydro-electric power plans of Frobisher-Ventures Ltd. move closer to reality, it seems increasingly logical that this port should figure in their operation.

In its first progress report in many months on the status of the project, Frobisher Ltd. recently confirmed the "economic feasibility" of the whole scheme and stated that designing of equipment will get underway at the end of this year. As mention of power development on the Nass river was specifically included, this means that those behind the undertaking now officially recognize the value of extending the operation far to the south of what was originally contemplated. In fact, the point was made that the Nass unit "is capable of early construction without delays caused by international negotiations."

Thus the Nass development, far from being an afterthought, will spearhead the whole project, and the avoidance of international problems so effected might readily establish the final policy. Rather than wait on the uncertainties of international politics caused by the Alaska Panhandle, the promoters conceivably will decide that no part of the project from the Yukon on down need enter U.S. territory.

For the realization of such a scheme, a northern Canadian port offering the best of facilities for approach by land and water will be required as outlet to the proposed metallurgical empire. Nothing less will do. A port that is ice-bound in winter or is remote from established connections or presents some handicap in its natural design could prove a bottleneck that would seriously affect the entire operation.

It is in this respect that Prince Rupert is qualified beyond all comparison. Its early planners thought so well of it that they envisioned it as the major port on the Canadian west coast. Because of strangely devised circumstances, this did not come to pass. But what they saw is still here. In view of what is taking place to the north, it is more apparent than ever that they were right.

Equality In Sentences

IN HIS Vancouver address to a conference of B.C. magistrates recently, Deputy Attorney-General Alan Maclean drew attention to the inequalities of sentence on the affluent and the poor man.

Frequently, he noted, a man of little means could not pay his fine and consequently went to jail. The wealthier person could pay and thus escaped a prison term.

Mr. Maclean suggested that magistrates might reduce this difference in treatment by permitting a convicted person to pay his fine by instalments in certain cases.

Such a course could save a man from going to prison. It is doubtful, however, if it would bring about equality in treatment of the rich and the poor. Whether a man pays a fine in a lump sum or pays it in time, the penalty falls more severely on the low-income bracket than on the individual who is well off.

In recent years, those who have given the question of sentence consideration have been inclined to vary the old axiom of making the punishment fit the crime. They suggest the punishment should fit the criminal. Perhaps more thought might be given to that point in an effort to make the system more equitable.

A man who makes $3,000 a year is more severely punished by a fine, no matter how he pays it, than the person who makes $15,000 a year and is subjected to the same penalty. —Victoria Daily Times.

As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Strikes Two For Ike

THE great umpire in the game of life has called "strike two" on President Ike.

The question which every intelligent American must now be asking himself or herself is whether the beloved head of the nation should be allowed to run again.

The very fact that President Eisenhower's second illness is not connected in any way with his heart attack doubly underlines the most fundamental of all questions:

Can the American people afford to take a four-year-more chance on President Eisenhower's state of health?

MY OWN guess is that, sick or well, heart attack or no heart attack, the American people would re-elect President Ike if he were able and willing to run next November.

As I see it, they would still prefer Eisenhower sick to anybody else already on the horizon, fully well.

But an increasing number of the American people are nevertheless going to be forced to ask themselves some soul searching questions about this matter.

The one American who in the toughest spot of all is Ike himself. Should he step down now, firmly and finally, or should he go on to the end—come what may? If so, when is the end likely?

THE trust which the American people put in Ike is a touching thing to behold. Not that it ever surprized me, for I always felt about Ike—and still do—pretty much like the majority of Americans seem to feel about him.

As I wrote in this column in 1952, I myself would certainly have voted for Ike had I been an American, notwithstanding the fact that he was running on the Republican ticket, which certainly has no attraction for me.

Ike had, to an amazing extent, that strange quality which makes the people trust some of their public men more than they trust others. Don't ask me to analyze or define it, for I admit I can't and I don't think anybody else can either.

But the fact remains that some strange collective sixth sense told the American people in advance that Ike would do pretty much the things which in practice he did do.

He got them out of the appalling mess of the Korean war and he kept them, and all the rest of us, out of atomic conflict with Russia and/or China even when his own Secretary of State was deliberately operating on what he later called "the brink of war."

I FIGURE no rival candidate can beat Ike if Ike decides to run again. Even the scintillating wisecracks of Adlai Stevenson fell flat or even boomeranged and in the end hurt the overwitty candidate more than they ever hurt Ike.

But for all that, Ike in 1956 would be up against the toughest rival of his whole career if he should finally decide to run again.

For in one sense he would be running against the presidency itself, not against a Democrat. In the minds and hearts of millions of people would be the question:

Is it right for Ike or for us to take a chance on a break in the most important office in the world when the warning bells have rung twice already?

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

WELLINGTON, N.Z. (CP)—Deputy prime minister K. J. Holyoake told parliament he had been made very welcome by Soviet ministers and officials on his recent visit to Russia. Answering a question, he said: "I made some inquiries but was never able to obtain the address or residence of the leader of the Opposition."

THE LETTERBOX

WANTS POPULAR PROGRAMS

The Editor,
The Daily News:

By the letter written by Miss Orno I gather she didn't know that the Ketchikan, Alaska stations had the majority of Prince Rupert residents listening to their programs.

I have only been here for approximately nine months but three weeks after my arrival I knew that the local station had the smaller listening audience. I will grant that the local CBC puts out good programs, but those, less a few, are all during working hours. That is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. What ever happened to "Lux Theatre," "Hour of Waltz," etc down the line? I am positive that people in this area would rather listen to one of those programs than one hour of symphonies.

Regarding your inquiry . . . I only have to look at the radio log to find out that at least three hours every night are spent on symphonies. Maybe in between these classical programs there is good listening enjoyment but I'd rather listen, uninterrupted, to good musical programs all evening without changing my dial every half hour or so. Where are "The Hit Parade," "The Jazz Session," and the "Hour of Mystery," the half hour of comedy and so forth?

I also have the impression that because I don't listen to CFPR you think I'm a drugstore cowboy. Well, I'd prefer being one of those than have to listen to some of the opera singing over CFPR. Most of the operas are in a foreign language and the artists sing so high that one can't understand them even if he knew the language.

Personally, I would prefer to listen to Canadian announcers, programs, news and in general I would rather listen to a Canadian station, but I can't say this station is one of those I'd include, when most of the programs are operas of a foreign tongue, part from a few.

MAURICE ST. ONGE
(Short Hair)
Prince Rupert.

TIRED OF ARGUMENT

The Editor,
The Daily News:

It is nice reading your paper after a hard day at work. A cup of coffee, a cigarette and The Daily News is an educational and relaxing hour for me.

I have no complaint against your fine paper except perhaps, regarding this marathon that is being run over the CBC course by men with long hair and women with short hair and of course there had to be a medium cut too.

Surely this matter could, at this stage, provide relevent material for the minutes of the Barbers' Union.

I feel quite sure that the people responsible for radio programs have a clear picture of the general opinion of the public. So how about giving us a new subject.

"NO HAIR,"
Prince Rupert.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

OKEHAMPTON, England (CP)—The official ratcatcher of this Devonshire town has lost his job for being too efficient. All the rats have disappeared.

BENEDICTOS (BENNY) SANTOS, 15, waves a cheery farewell from plane ramp on leaving Montreal for his native La Paz, Bolivia, after being fitted with artificial arms at the Montreal Rehabilitation Institute. He travelled to Montreal nine months ago after losing both arms in an accident at La Paz. (CP Photo).

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

One wholly unexpected feature of the pipelines battle now ended almost a week ago is the new confirmation it has given to the old maxim that it pays to advertise.

Government sources say that the prospects of economic success facing the pipeline have been enhanced beyond measure by the publicity which the project received during the weeks that it was front-page news across the nation as a result of the Parliamentary opposition's fillibuster against it.

A whole sheaf of inquiries from industries along the pipeline's route, as well as from municipalities, is said to have deluged the desk of Trade Minister Howe as a direct sequel to—and unexpected dividend from—the exhaustive airing of the project by Parliament.

What appears to have happened is that scores of industries as well as municipalities have had their thoughts turned in the direction of gas as a superior source of fuel by the sheer weight of the Parliamentary debate and by the thoroughness with which the various speakers argued its advantages over competitive sources of energy.

The steel industry of Hamilton is said to be a conspicuous example. At present it uses some $200,000,000 worth of United States coal annually in its smelting and fabricating operations. Now it is reported to have concluded that Alberta gas will be a very much more efficient fuel for its purposes. As soon as it becomes available, therefore, the switch will be made—and a $200,000,000 item will be knocked off Canada's far-too-adverse trade balance with the United States.

But the most significant inquiries are reported to be coming from the large-scale mining and paper industries along the Northern Ontario section of the pipeline. This is the section which both the Federal and the Ontario Governments have been taking for granted would need public aid, with the result that a scheme of joint assistance has been worked out. But now the outlook is said to be that this division of the project will meet a demand sufficient to make it profitable almost from the time it commences operation.

In brief, the report now is circulating the Parliament Hill grapevine that the project which Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe described as "possibly my last big one" is likely to prove the most spectacular of all his successes. Such a prophecy, when seriously advanced, is really taking in a lot of territory. And the publicity which the Parliamentary fillibuster gave to the project is said to be the main factor in its presently enhanced prospect.

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Norwegian Says Canadians Waste Timber

PORT ARTHUR (CP) — Jacob Kinglebotten, a Norwegian forestry expert and editor of the magazine The Forest Owner at Oslo says "Most Canadian wood cutters are trusting blindly to what they believe to be their everlasting riches.

"The contractors and companies are using up the public areas where they have licence to cut as if the day of doom comes tomorrow. Half a cord of wood is destroyed for each cord that is utilized from the forest areas. This sort of waste is unheard of any place else in the world."

Mr. Kinglebotten has been visiting Canada since last fall. To gather his observations of Canadian forestry problems he has worked on the inside.

When he came to the Lakehead he got a job as a bushworker cutting wood. He lived in bush camps, was laid off with other workers during some of the winter months and got a first-hand look at Canadian forests.

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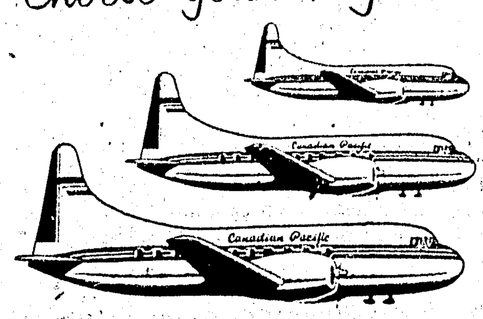

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