

## Railway Into North

IT IS understood that the federal government is considering the construction of a 400-mile railway into the Northwest Territories to aid development of ore bodies in the area of Great Slave Lake. Attention is centred particularly on Pine Point on the south shore of the lake where there is a lead-zinc deposit said to be one of the richest in the world.

Proposals such as this to develop the Canadian northland are to be encouraged if there is reasonable expectancy that the region being entered can eventually be industrialized to a point where it occupies some real place in the Canadian economy. The idea of long fingers of transportation stretching into areas that are unlikely ever to be settled to any great extent not only is impractical but fails to answer the country's need for increasing its northern population.

Perhaps a rail line to Great Slave Lake would help materially to move habitation northwards. Certainly the resources of that area sooner or later will merit everything possible being done to improve transportation facilities. At present anything that cannot move by air must go in difficult stages by river.

But before the government endeavors to penetrate into that barren and forbidding country, it would be well advised to give serious consideration to the northern part of our own province. There the opportunities are so inviting that industrial projects have taken shape, or are about to do so, even though lines of communication are still in the most primitive form. Tulsequah and Cassiar already are undergoing development, while exploration continues apace in the Atlin Lake district. Then to the northeast there is increased activity in the Peace River block.

For a line branching from a point such as Hazelton on the northern CNR line there are countless chances to attract a diversified traffic that few other sections of the north country could yield. Moreover all of it would have comparatively easy access to the sea.

It may be that this is not exactly what the government is after in contemplating a rail line into the north country. It would seem that the particular prospects of Great Slave Lake are so compelling that the government is tempted to build a railway there regardless of the sterile features of the rest of the region. It is not a point that can be debated without more knowledge of the factors involved.

But the need to draw population into the north country still remains. Since industry has already made such a promising start in northern B.C., there should be some attempt to give it further encouragement before heavy expenditures elsewhere make it impossible.

## Vancouver City Council Stops Payments to Single Unemployed

VANCOUVER — City council has decided to stop special unemployment assistance payments to 1,284 single men as from July 15. Another 152 married men and 22 single women will continue to receive cheques.

Alderman Earle Adams urged a work program to weed out loafers and give willing men a chance to earn the 45 a month they receive.

A special committee interviewed Premier Bennett last week and the premier did not favor the scheme.

Ald. Adams said he did not agree with the premier and added the city would save a large sum of money if people had to work for assistance.

The city pays 20 per cent of the unemployment assistance and the provincial government contributes the remaining 80 per cent.

## PARENTS MUST NOTIFY VICTORIA IF CHILDREN OUT OF CANADA

VICTORIA — With the approach of the vacation season parents who are in receipt of family allowances for their children are reminded that the absence of any child from Canada for a period exceeding 30 days must be reported to the regional office in Victoria.

"While any temporary absence from Canada not exceeding three calendar months does not effect eligibility for the allowances, absences over 30 days must be reported to this office," W. R. Bone, Regional Director, Department of National Health and Welfare, said today. "In a recent survey it was found that in a number of cases children had been out of the country for periods exceeding three months and no report of the absence had been received. Such instances result in suspension and recovery of the overpayments. It is equally important that the return of any child to Canada should be reported so that the extent of his eligibility can be determined and payments resumed."

## As I See It



By  
Elmore  
Philpott

### To Defend Canada

THE House of Commons of Canada is a surprising place. Just when you figure it is going to explode into volcanic controversy it fools you.

Everybody thought that the 1555 debate on National Defence would be a rip snorter. It came about a week after the demotion of a top RCAF officer who had made a sensational speech. It came immediately after the announced retirement of General Guy Simonds from his post as Chief of the General Staff. Some people, both inside and outside the House, mistakenly thought that the speeches which General Simonds had made earlier, favoring conscription, had had something to do with the later shake-up in the army high command. As it turned out, this was just not so.

HERE are the points of agreement which emerged from the parliamentary debate:

1. All parties agree that staff officers should keep their mouths shut on controversial matters which, under our system of government, must be decided by the parliament, and its servant, the cabinet.

2. All parties agree that Canada should be defended by Canadians—and that even Americans should only be allowed to use Canadian soil to help defend their own country if they want to carry on some extra defence activity which is over and above what Canada needs for the defence of Canada.

For example: Nobody in the House of Commons of Canada has suggested that American air forces be stationed in northern Canada to help intercept any would-be aggressors. Canada intends to do that job herself. But Canada has no objection to allowing some Americans to help train the radar lines, whose sole function is to detect enemy planes.

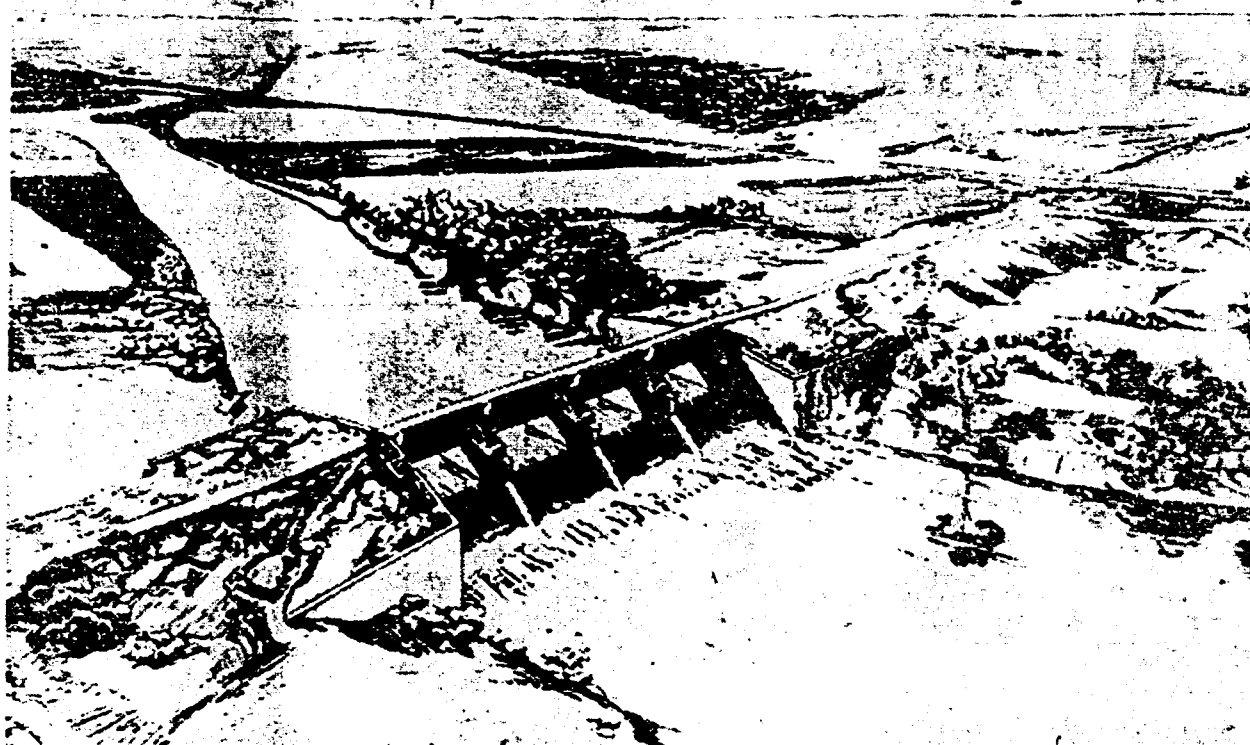
3. All parties agree that there is no possibility of an actual Russian invasion of northern Canada. Russia might, however, make airborne "nuisance" attacks on certain key points in the north—such as our air bases, or uranium mines. To meet that menace Canada must keep instantly ready sufficient forces to re-take any points so captured in "nuisance" raids.

THE greatest weakness in Canada's defence set-up, as revealed in the parliamentary debate, is to deal with the situation which would follow the first Russian aggression, the American strategic air forces could almost literally wipe most of industrialized Russia off the map. They could probably destroy Russia's ability to carry on. But as Russia already has fast jet bombers, capable of striking at the heart of America from across the North Pole, terrible destruction could fall on Canada too.

IN THE event of war, Canada must be prepared for the destruction of some big cities like Vancouver, Montreal or Toronto.

So far, our Civilian Defence organization is only a crude skeleton of what it must be. But the main job of our militia regiments in that still-possible "next war" will be to prevent a temporary new dark age of anarchy right here in our own country.

It will be necessary to move scores of thousands of people to new homes in the country—in barns, sheds, summer cottages. Unless there are sufficient troops to keep order in this people, the aftermath of a Russian bomb attack could be worse than the attack itself.



THIS SKETCH SHOWS the control structure and a portion of the dam for the suggested St. Agathe detention basin as a means of combatting future flooding of the Red river at Winnipeg. The basin would be formed by an earth-fill dike stretching across the prairie immediately upstream from the farming community of Ste. Agathe. Water flow would be controlled by a radial gate system. Estimated cost is \$12,000,000. (CP Photo)

## Liberal Leader Fledgling Lawyer On Day He Caused Alberta Election

EDMONTON — Liberal Leader J. Harper Prowse received his final law marks from the University of Alberta the day before he raised a legal point which brought on the June 29 Alberta general election.

The legislature was dissolved and an election called after Mr. Prowse asked how many Social Credit members had dealings with the treasury branches—state-run banking institutions. He held that dealings with the branches meant holding a contract with the government, a violation of the Legislative Assembly Act.

Mr. Prowse, who will be 42 in July, leads the Liberals into a general election for the third time since he was chosen head of the party in 1947. There were four Liberals in the last legislature and they constituted the official opposition.

## End of Month Marks Decade For Allowances

VICTORIA—British Columbia children in the ten years ending this month have received a total of over \$214,000,000 in family allowances. W. R. Bone, regional director of the Department of National Health and Welfare, said today. Issuance of the June cheques marked the end of a decade since payments were commenced.

The July 1945 cheques, totaling \$1,111,778, were issued on behalf of 185,579 children in 95,773 families. In June, 1955, allowances totaling \$2,379,751 were made to 394,085 children in 189,944 families. In this increase not all payments nor the number of children can be attributed to growth in population, although the greater part is due to that cause, Mr. Bone said. In the initial stages acceptance of the payments was optional with the parent, insofar as income taxes were concerned. However in January, 1947, legislation was changed and income tax assessments were made on the assumption that all persons claiming children under sixteen years of age as dependents were receiving the allowances. At that date over 6,000 parents, with 12,000 children applied.

The transfer of active accounts between provinces during the 10-year period illustrates the trend of population towards British Columbia. Records show that 60,051 families entered British Columbia and 41,604 left that province, leaving a favorable balance of 18,447. Two is the average number of children to a family.

The Liberal leader graduated in arts from the University of Alberta in 1938 and one of his reasons for returning to study law was that he found politics "very uncertain and a relatively unremunerative occupation."

Born July 2, 1913, at Taber in southern Alberta, Mr. Prowse was the eldest of six sons and one daughter born to the town's crown prosecutor.

At university the handsome six-foot leader won the best actor award, a literary A for debating and played senior rugby for the Golden Bears. Later he became a reporter for the old Edmonton Bulletin and continued in newspaper work until the Second World War.

Mr. Prowse spent five years in the army serving with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment in England, North Africa and Italy. He was wounded twice in Italy.

When Alberta personnel were given the right to elect one member for the legislature from the

army, navy and air force, his army colleagues in Italy urged him to run. It required a petition, signed by 250 members of his regiment, to make him change his mind. That was in 1944.

### CHOSEN LIBERAL LEADER

Mr. Prowse returned to Canada with the rank of captain. He entered newspaper work but dropped it in 1947 when the Liberals decided to re-enter politics and chose him as leader.

At 34, in the 1948 Alberta general election, he was Canada's youngest political party leader.

The Liberal leader filled one of seven Edmonton seats in the legislature. Also seeking election in Edmonton as Liberals are Rev. Edward Bailey, Mr. Prowse's regimental padre and adviser in the Second World War, and Andrew Dechene, Edmonton lawyer with whom Mr. Prowse will articulate.

The Liberal leader is married and has two children.



SOME OF THE FIRST troops to arrive at Camp Gagetown, N.B., in what is described as the largest peacetime troop movement in Canada's history, line up for supper. About 11,000 soldiers will be concentrated at the camp by July 2. Cook is Pte. J. McEwen of Winnipeg. The soldiers shown are from No. 3 Transport Company, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, who made the 1,028-mile journey from Camp Borden, Ont. (CP Photo)

fly with **ELLIS** AIR LINES

KETCHIKAN	\$15.00	WRANGELL	\$27.00	PETERSBURG	\$29.70	JUNEAU	\$41.40	WHITEHORSE	\$57.00	SEATTLE	\$66.00
-----------	---------	----------	---------	------------	---------	--------	---------	------------	---------	---------	---------

We Make  
All Reservations  
Including Hotels and  
Limousines

Dial 2223 (Office opposite Post Office) Third Ave.

**EXPORT**  
CANADA'S FINEST  
CIGARETTE

The Largest Selection of White Shoes in Town

**BEST BUYS for the beach**

- ★ Sandals \$1.95 to \$5.95
- ★ Foam Mocs \$1.95 to \$3.95
- ★ Wedgies \$4.95 to \$6.95
- ★ Hi Heeled Pumps and Sandals \$4.95 to \$8.95

CHILDREN'S RUNNERS  
Foam Insoles Arch Supports \$1.10 to \$2.95

**FASHION FOOTWEAR** 606 3rd West Phone 5926

## OTTAWA DIARY

There is more than just a desire for a thoughtful, guiding look at the nation's bright economic prospects behind the decision to put a royal commission to work assessing the future.

When Prime Minister St. Laurent named the commission last week he was acting upon a growing top-level suspicion in Ottawa that the shining shell of post-war prosperity hides a serious structural defect in the nation's economic foundation. Battered down to its simplest terms, the failure of the manufacturing and heavy-labor-using fabricating industries to match the productivity increases of the primary industries has Ottawa economists worried.

In spite of the optimistic tones of the recent statistics, some of the government's advisers have urged that the time has come for a new look at the future prospects in the light of recent economic trends. To them 1954 is a turning-point year—the year in which the built-in protections of war and post-war demand ran out for Canada's manufacturing industries.

There is no fear that a major depression lurks around the next corner. But there is a nagging worry that the national production pattern will not fit the new requirements of an era of highly competitive world trade and that high winter unemployment like that experienced in the last two years will remain a permanent and costly drag on an otherwise stable and healthy economy.

A monumental review of Canadian economic development since Confederation has recently been printed in limited numbers and circulated among top government flunkies. It was prepared by Dr. J. O. Firestone, the government's top-ranking economist. Those who waded through it found some surprising comparisons of statistics. If they bothered to put them together in the right formula.

In short, the figures showed that while Canada's gross output of goods and services has increased phenomenally in dollar terms, in real terms, adjusted for changes in values, the increase has been slower since 1946 than it was before. In adjusted real terms the GNP increased an average of 3.7 per cent per year from 1920 to last year. But in the last nine years

—1945 to 1954—the average increase was only 1.5 per cent.

A large part of the downward trend of the growth has been in manufacturing and industries. To 1954 higher costs with no increase in productive capacity in mining, manufacturing and heavy-labor industries have gone up 80 per cent and man-hour production per 73.4 per cent. In wages are up 17.0 per cent.

The new era of economic stagnation is whether production scale and stimulants industries or by manpower and many production. The new royal economic commission is but part of an evolving an question.

Fred E. D...  
OPTOMETRIST  
Phone 5...  
303 2nd Ave.

## ENTERPRISE OIL RANGE

- Pilot light on consumption 25% on LOW fire.
- Fan removable for easy cleaning.
- Cleanout in front more readily accessible.
- Guaranteed performance or your money back.

**\$269**  
\$29.50 Down

**McRAE BROS. LIMITED**  
Dial 2325-2  
The Store that Sells

LOOK INTO  
**1955**  
Printing Needs  
**NOW**  
**Dibb Printing COMPANY**

TRY THE  
**Grand Cafe**  
For the Best Selection of Chinese Food  
OUR SPECIALTY — TAKE OUT ORDER  
DIAL  
**3215**  
Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m.  
635 2nd Ave. West

**LEM HAR RUM**

Have a GOOD RUM for your...  
This advertisement is not published or distributed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.