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Ice Arena Long Overdue

IT'S been said before and it will be said again until it is actually accomplished. What Prince Rupert needs is an ice arena . . . an ice arena where several levels of hockey leagues could operate, where children and adults could skate and where a figure skating club could give finesse to the more proficient. It goes without saying that annually at this time of Prince Rupert's winter or whenever the cold spell occurs, the citizens are inflicted with a mild case of ice arena fever. The hundreds upon hundreds of adults and youngsters who have enjoyed skating and pickup hockey in the past 10 days offers proof that this year, the desire to have a permanent skating site has developed into a most serious affliction. Nearly 1,000 persons were out skating at Oliver and Prudhomme lakes last Saturday and more than 1,500 on Sunday. Those figures represent a large amount of skates which at the most are used five days out of the year. It would appear then, that with basketball presently on the wane, Prince Rupert needs another winter sport . . . a sport that would pay its way . . . a sport that would appeal to the most people. An ice arena . . . a good one with its own ice plant and in a central location would not only pay its way but in the long run would be kind to its investors.

Examine the possibilities. This is a town with a population slightly more than 10,000. Other cities, other towns with half the population have their ice rinks, their general skating and their hockey games all winter long. Of this city's population there are at a conservative estimate 4,000 adults with a stake in the town's future. There are several large industries whose employees contribute to the upkeep of the town. There are three active service clubs. There are 180 sundry organizations, which can't actually be counted as they are made up of the 4,000 adults, but they often operate independently. For a wideawake community this represents a terrific potential.

If the Curling club with 200 members can raise $60,000 for its addition then surely the rest of the town can raise enough for an ice arena. How can it be done? How did other towns acquire their rinks? The Victoria taxpayers paid for the Memorial arena there. Service clubs raised the money in Cranbrook to modernize its rink and put in an ice plant. Other city's have accomplished it by selling bonds, debentures, fund drives to match company gifts and by raising the money themselves. Now Prince Rupert isn't Trail, where the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company gave the citizens a $500,000 Cominco arena, a $275,000 Cominco gymnasium and a children's skating rink and said "Okay here you are. Here's something to keep you happy. You operate them." Here, in Prince Rupert it would be a tougher proposition. It would call for hard work, a certain amount of sacrifice and a united community spirit. It would make an ideal project for Prince Rupert's Centennial committee.

Just visualize it. Prince Rupert's Centennial Arena, rising downtown, a project that would benefit citizens young and old. The provincial government grant would make a good foundation for such a drive. This city doesn't have to have a $500,000 rink, it could have a $220,000 arena, more suited to this community's pocketbook. Just using $220,000 as a basis for estimating, ponder how it could be raised. Say, the provincial government grant and local firms took care of the extra $20,000. There would be $200,000 left for the possibile 4,000 adults or $50 each as an investment in the future . . . or less than $2 a week for a year. It could be done during B.C.'s Centennial year and be finished and well in use by the time that Prince Rupert celebrates its Golden Jubilee in 1960. It is a project that bears looking into closely . . . one that is long overdue and warrants action.

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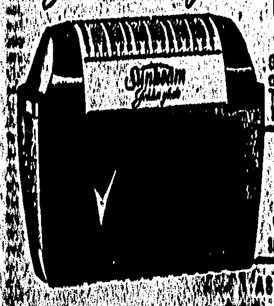
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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• German Peace Lead

WEST GERMANY is getting ready for a general election. To carry the people with him in that election, the wise old leader Chancellor Adenaeur has dropped what you might call a double peace bomb.

He suggests that there should be a ban on the H bomb, and that there should be created some kind of a buffer zone between the big power blocs in Europe.

These proposals have caused no little concern in Washington, for they sound as if the tough old German had swung over at least half way to the Russian side in the argument over what is to be done in Europe.

IT SEEMS to me that there is double significance in what Chancellor Adenaeur says. In the first place, his statement is just one more proof that the surest vote getter in any election in any western democratic country is to do something real for world peace.

I, myself, heard the great Churchill win the British election of 1951 by promising in six key speeches to make the supreme effort of his life to get a real peace meeting with the Russians. Some of the shrewdest political observers in Britain tell me that because Eden actually did sit down with the Russians and Americans at Geneva, in the effort to achieve real peace, that tilted the scale in his favor in the next election which followed a few months after that ill-starred "meeting at the summit."

Certainly President Eisenhower won the election of 1952 by his clear-cut promise to end the unpopular muddled-up war in Korea.

So again in 1956. Whatever we may say for or against President Eisenhower's policies toward the Suez crisis there can be no doubt that they won what support they did command in the U.S.A. on the ground that Ike had helped avert a third world war.

CHANCELLOR Adenaeur's utterances therefore, simply remind us that all the longings for peace which apply in Britain and the U.S.A. apply also in Germany—perhaps even more than they do in the English speaking countries.

No country, except possibly Russia, ever learned at first hand more of what modern war means than did Germany, thanks to Hitler. But what happened to Germany in the Second World War might seem like a Sunday school picnic as compared with what might well happen to her in a third, fought on her soil, with A bombs, H bombs and guided missiles.

IT SEEMS to be that the German statesman's proposal for a "buffer zone" is of far more importance than his suggestion re: the H bumb.

The rock-bottom Russian price for the re-unification of Germany is the neutralization of all re-united Germany — that is, its inclusion in a buffer zone. The practical question is how much more of Europe must also be included?

Right now, the Russians are in a tough spot in eastern Europe.

Their bloody repression of the freedom uprising in Hungary is the handwriting on the wall for the new empire of the Red Czars and they know it.

But the Russians are in the position where it is almost as dangerous for them to let go of anything they have grabbed as it is to try to hang on.

The wise old German statesman is offering them — and all of us — a way out.

There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to victory. In this case the victory might be world peace, at least for our time.

U.S. Plan Worrying Kremlin

By HAROLD K. MILKS

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign diplomats in Moscow say the Kremlin genuinely fears President Eisenhower's Middle East program and is trying desperately to find an effective counter-attack.

The diplomats have talked with Foreign Minister Dmitri Shepilov and other Russian leaders. They say the Soviet reaction is this:

● The Russians see the Eisenhower doctrine as another step toward Western encirclement of the Soviet Union.

● Their opposition is not just anti-West propaganda.

● The Kremlin knows it has to come up with something concrete, not just propaganda, to defeat the new U.S. move.

The Western diplomats say, however, that the capitalists are draining the Russian economy so heavily the Soviet Union can't hope to match American dollars.

Several diplomats in Moscow, including some friendly to the West, also say emphasis on the military side of the Eisenhower program, on the heels of the British-French military intervention in Egypt, is a mistake.

"If the military aspects had been dropped or minimized, the program would have been hard to beat," one commented.

Another diplomat told a reporter: "They the Russians know public attacks on the plan are not enough and that they must themselves offer some positive program if they hope to continue holding the spotlight with the Arab nations."

Diplomats agreed that, despite boasts of prosperity, the Soviet Union is in no condition to match offers of economic help in the Middle East.

Employment Questions And Answers

In this column are questions about unemployment insurance and employment, together with answers received from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. If you are uncertain about any point do not hesitate to send us your question, we will obtain an answer and publish it in this column.

Following are some questions and answers which may be of interest to you.

Q. I was drawing unemployment insurance but got myself a job to start last Monday. I forwarded my weekly report for the previous week of unemployment to the local office. On the way to work on Monday, I slipped and broke my leg. I will be in the hospital four weeks. Can I get any benefits?

A. Yes, if you are not disqualified for any other reason.

Q. I had an accident on the job and until recently was getting sickness benefits on a group insurance plan. I can go back to my old job when I recover but that won't be for some months. I could do light work now and would be glad to get it. Am I entitled to benefits?

A. If you are able to work, are willing to work, and are otherwise qualified, you are entitled to benefit.

Q. If I give two months notice of leaving and am dismissed immediately am I entitled to benefit?

A. This would depend entirely on the circumstances that brought about your dismissal. If, however, dismissal occurred simply because you gave notice, and you are otherwise qualified, benefit would be paid.

DRAMA LOVERS

The Greater Oslo school theatre association, which arranges theatrical performances for youngsters, now has 20,000 members.

REGULATIONS — LOAD LIMIT
COPPER RIVER SUSPENSION BRIDGE,
SKEENA WEST DISTRICT

The undersigned, being a person authorized by the Minister of Highways, in writing, to exercise the powers vested in the said Minister in Part IV of the "Highway Act," hereby makes the following regulation pursuant to Section No. 63 of the "Highway Act," effective from 12:01 A.M. Wednesday, January 16, 1957, until further notice.

No person shall operate any vehicle having a maximum gross weight in excess of twelve tons (24,000 lbs.) over the Copper River Suspension Bridge, six miles east of Terrace on Highway No. 102 Terrace-Pacific, part of the Northern Trans-Provincial Highway No. 16.

Dated at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, this 15th day of January, 1957.

H. J. KELSALL,
District Engineer.
(17)

THIS JET CAR was developed by All American Engineering Company of Wilmington, Del., for the U.S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics to test aircraft arresting gear. The bright red hot rod, powered by four jet engines, roars down a test track at 200 mph or more pushing in front of it dead loads which are slammed into arresting gear testing the strength of the gear and its capability to absorb the energy of a landing jet fighter or bomber.

Weather Scene Across Canada Still Chilly

By The Canadian Press

The weather picture across most of Canada today: It's still mighty cold. The expected relief never came.

Snow is falling in many parts of the country today, but temperatures are not appreciably higher, except on the Prairies where highs of 25 and 30 have been forecast.

There is variable cloudiness in the west, with snow in assorted areas. Winnipeg, Regina and Brandon all reported slightly rising temperatures and snowflurries.

Alberta was expected to bask in clear weather with the mercury climbing to an astounding —for this week—30 in Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Swift Current all expected highs of 25. Overnight lows across the Prairies were five and 10 above.

It's colder in the East. Temperatures forecast for today ranged downward to 40 below at White River in northern Ontario.

More snow was predicted for the Maritimes.

VALUABLE OUTPUT

Production for pearl shell in Australia was valued at $1,740,000 in 1955, about 20 per cent more than the previous year.

OTTAWA DIARY

By JAMES R. NELSON

Evidence that Canada's growing industrial machine is growing, geographically, in all directions is contained in the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics report on Canada's Manufacturing Output.

The point of the report is that industrialization is not being concentrated in the big manufacturing cities of Toronto and Montreal. True that out of the top 10 manufacturing cities six of them are in Ontario, and the Atlantic provinces can't claim one of them.

But the report for the year 1954 shows that the top 25 cities accounted for a smaller proportion of the total manufacturing output of the country than they did in the previous year.

The fact that the two 25 cities are down is due to increases being recorded more rapidly in other cities than in those 25. Their combined record of production is up over 1953. But the proportion of total manufacturing output is down from 55 percent to 53.5 percent.

So, the conclusion to be drawn from the figures is that more of the smaller communities are producing a larger share of Canada's manufactured goods.

And another feature of the report is indication that even in the larger manufacturing centers, work is becoming more diversified. There was a larger number of manufacturing plants in those 25 principal centers in the year.

Montreal continues to be Canada's leading manufacturing city. Its shipments in 1954 were valued at $1.08 billion. This was a drop from $2.04 billion the previous year.

Toronto, the second biggest manufacturing center, also recorded a drop, as did Hamilton, Ont., third on the list. But Vancouver's total manufacturing production rose in 1954 from $449 million to $487 million. Another big increase was recorded in Montreal East.

Figures for one year can't be conclusive with regard to trends. But the Gordon report on Canada's Economic Prospects in 1980 said there were indications of a major burst of manufacturing activity. The report didn't make any firm prediction as to geographical location. Industry tends to settle, of course, in an industrial atmosphere. But more diversity in industrial location is something that all the politicians are trying to promote.

Egyptian Deal Not Changing Bank Situation

LONDON (Reuters)— "Egyptianization" of banks and insurance companies makes no immediate difference to any country's business in or with Egypt but it throws important light on Egypt's economic plight and may have a minor bearing on the question of compensation.

In announcing the new legislation, Finance Minister Kaissuny asserted that after the Suez Canal nationalization the British and French banks had refrained from financing the cotton crop or industrial and commercial enterprises and had thus created a slump in cotton prices and thereby injured Egypt's economy.

He further said that after the freezing of Egypt's currency reserves they had granted credits on such a scale as to exhaust the country's entire free currency reserves, causing a fall in the Egyptian pound abroad; and had undermined Egypt's economic situation.

London and Paris head offices of banks in Egypt deny these allegations. They say that up to the sequestration in early November their Egyptian offices operated normally, and that since the sequestration they have had no contract either way.

Sequestration is the term used for an Egyptian government order issued Nov. 1 that all French and British property, including oil installations, be registered with the finance ministry for seizure.

Regardless of the allegations and the denials, the significant thing is that Kaissuny gives so serious an account on Egypt's economic situation and currency reserves—far the most serious that has yet come from Egypt.

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THAT OPERATICS aren't necessarily fun for grown-ups only is shown by these two participants in a production by the kindergarten class of Public School 200 in Rego Park, New York. Getting that come-hither look from Don Jose is Shelley Fine, a port little Carmen with rose, earring and all, shining up to the torero who is so dashingly portrayed by Donald Klein.

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