An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia
Member of Canadian Press—Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited
J. F. MAGOR, President
Subscription Rates:
By mail—Per month $1.00; per year $10.00.
By carrier—per month, $1.25; per year, $12.00
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

Let's Have More on Monday

AFTER years of annual proclamations the federal government has finally decided that Victoria Day and Thanksgiving will be permanently fixed. From now on Victoria Day will be celebrated the Monday immediately preceding May 25, and Thanksgiving, the second Monday in October.

No longer will it be necessary to wait for an annual announcement. Calendars can be printed and holiday plans arranged well in advance. Most people, and certainly all business, will be grateful.

But why stop with that?

The day we celebrate Confederation should also be fixed on a Monday, perhaps the first Monday in July. Sometimes we have followed this plan but only on a year to year basis. Until it is permanently fixed like the other two holidays there will be uncertainty and confusion.

In this modern age a holiday in the middle of the week is of little use to anyone. It is merely a day on which we stay home from the factory or office. It is not like a holiday added to a weekend which gives a real break. And for business there is no confusing and costly shutdown in the middle of a week.

—Financial Post.

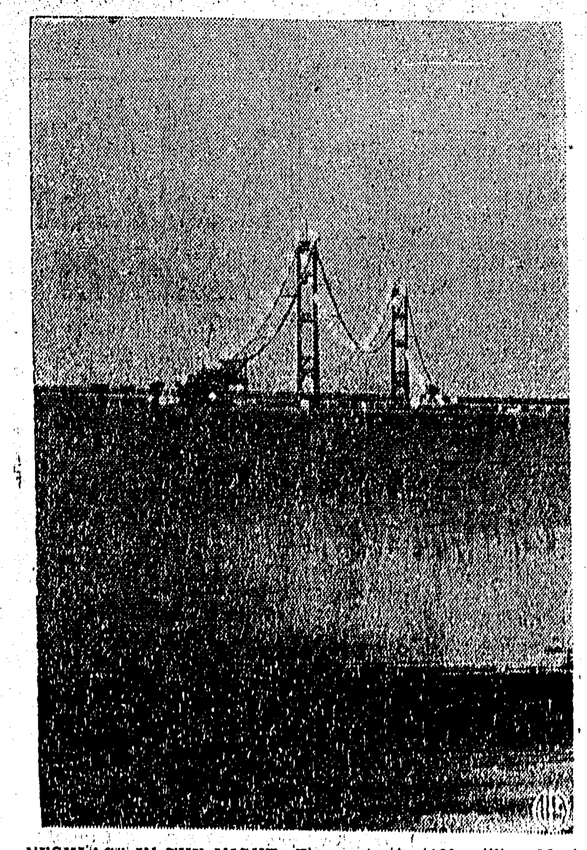
A Canadian Triumph

THE micro-wave network which has been officially opened is a massive tribute to the industrial and electronic know-how of many Canadians, particularly Canadians associated with the telephone industry. The forty-two relay towers that link Winnipeg with Toronto are the symbols of another major triumph over the vast distance and the difficult geography of the Dominion. Here is another tie to bind Canadians closer together.

The micro-wave network is the result of a great co-operative effort on the part of seven major telephone companies. Construction difficulties and engineering difficulties of building such a system across 1,680 miles, much of it wilderness, were enormous. These difficulties were met and overcome.

Completion of the line will greatly improve communications between west and east. The network provides for twelve channels which will ensure much better long-distance telephone service.

—Winnipeg Tribune.



NECKLACE IN THE NIGHT—The majestic $100 million Mackinac Bridge appears all lighted up like a Christmas tree in this photo, made at dusk from the St. Ignace, Michigan, side of the Straits of Mackinac. Lights are on every night on the world's longest suspension bridge for several reasons. They are there so that workmen on duty around the clock can see what they're doing, so that ships passing through the straits won't crash into the structure, and so that aircraft won't hit any of the 552-foot high main towers. The five-mile bridge, which will link Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas, is scheduled to be completed in November of 1957.

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As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

Broker Breaks Faith

AN Ottawa stock broker has violated the rules of business fair play by telling the press that several Conservative MPs, along with one CCFer, bought blocks of Trans Canada pipeline stock, although they had voted against the project in the last session of parliament.

An ethical stock broker should follow the same rule as the good priest, parson, or physician. The details of the transactions made through his office should be kept strictly confidential. The moral obligation to keep faith with the client is not by-passed merely because those concerned happen to be MPs.

I DO NOT blame even Conservative MP's, nor the lone CCFer, from taking a little flyer in Trans Canada. It at least testifies to the fact that most of what was said in the pipeline debate of last year was based on pre-election maneuvering, and not on the actual issue at stake.

Every sensible Canadian should rejoice at the fact that the whole Trans Canada enterprise has now been successfully financed, and the government's short term loan has been repaid in full, with a rather handsome margin of profit to the public treasury.

For years past there has been weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth at the fact that American capitalists were taking over more and more of the business of this country. That was never the full story, according to the old courtroom definition of "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth".

It was true that shrewd U.S. enterprisers were pouring a veritable flood of money into Canada, for investment. But in spite of that, Canadians themselves were each year acquiring a bigger and bigger slice of the total ownership of the country, but of the older, less profitable forms of property.

But up till now, there has been one grave weakness in the Canadians set-up. Canadians themselves have been visibly less willing to invest in new Canadian enterprizes than have Americans or other outsiders, including financiers of Sweden and other European countries.

Anybody who had access to the official figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics could learn these rather startling facts. Canadians, as a nation, were saving more money than ever before in history. But on the whole Canadians were less willing than Americans, or some other foreigners, to invest "risk capital" in new Canadian enterprizes.

Time and time again the Canadian people had subscribed, and over-subscribed, loans floated by the federal government, either to finance the world wars, or for other necessary national purposes.

But not till the coast-to-coast financing of the Trans Canada Pipeline did the whole Canadian nation ever show willingness, and even eagerness, to invest in a really big private enterprize.

The insurance companies in Canada and the U.S.A. put up the $124 millions to buy the first mortgage bonds of the company.

But private investors, mostly in Canada, rushed to subscribe no less than $112,500,000 in debentures and common stock of the company.

The fact that no less than 70 per cent of these securities were sold in Canada to Canadians is the ringing answer to the old blue ruin, colonial-linded cry, that Canadians have no faith in Canada—at least to the point of putting up their hard cash to prove it.

The fierce argument in parliament about the pipeline was one of the best things that ever happened in this land. It wakened up the whole country to the fact that something very big was a-building.

More Study On Power, Fish Needed

VANCOUVER (CP)—Dr. John J Deutsch, former Canadian deputy trade minister and now head of the University of British Columbia's department of economics, says "a great deal more study" is needed to see if B.C. can keep its fishing industry on the Fraser and Columbia and still get power from the two rivers.

Addressing the academy of science conference at UBC, Dr. Deutsch said the need for more research should be "quite clear."

"The point is not whether B.C. will have fish or power on the Fraser but whether two are compatible despite the great problems involved."

Another member of a six-man panel discussing the subject, H. W. Peck, B.C. Electric staff engineer said the Fraser and Columbia are still Vancouver's two most economic sources of power. Atomic power would not be feasible for 20 years and much of B.C.'s power potential was so far away that transmission costs would be prohibitive.

JIM McMASTER of Westbourne, Man., stands among black carp scooped with nets from the Whitemud River, 83 miles northwest of Winnipeg. More than 25,000 of the undesirable and comparatively worthless fish, weighing an estimated 50 tons were taken from the river in less than a week and used for chicken and mink feed. (CP Photo).

Strachan Forced To Withdraw

VICTORIA (CP)—CCF Opposition leader Robert Strachan was forced to withdraw a remark in the British Columbia legislature Tuesday which government speakers contended attributed dishonesty to Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi.

Mr. Strachan, roused by remarks about the CCF made by the Social Credit minister in the budget debate, said: "It's a shameful display. You should be ashamed of yourself. Stick to the truth and stop twisting words."

Mr. Gaglardi claimed that dishonesty had been implied. Speaker Tom Irwin agreed with him and ordered a withdrawal. Mr. Strachan said: "I withdraw at this time."

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A GROUP OF ALBERTA INDIANS cheer with joy after a court decision halting the eviction of fellow tribesmen from the Hobbema reservation, 55 miles south of Edmonton. The eviction order, arising from a dispute among Indians themselves, would have expelled 122 Indians from the oil-rich reserve. Some of the Indians who would have been evicted are shown in this group on the steps of the Edmonton court house where Chief Judge Nelles Buchanan issued his decision. Chief John Samson of the Samson Indian band (third from left) led an impromptu victory dance after the decision. (CP Photo).

VICTORIA REPORT By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA — The budget debate drifts along in your Legislature in time-honored fashion. All MLAs get weary of it, and say that private members should be permitted to speak for only so long, but nobody does anything about it. Everybody's afraid of being accused of trying to stifle free speech.

When one thinks that of a six or seven week session, four weeks are given over to the making of speeches, 65 per cent of which have nothing to do with B.C., and 50 per cent of which are politics, and the reform should be delivered on the hustings, it's a truly extraordinary state of affairs, a sort of never-never land, a cloud-cuckoo land.

But that's the way it always has been, and one supposes, with a heavy sigh, that that's the way it always will be. Change comes slowly, if ever to Legislatures; they practically never change their routine.

Most of the speeches this year are hum-drum, an election being a long way off; besides, most speeches lasting more than a half hour are bound to become hum-drum.

Everybody is not a CCF, Randolph Harding of Kaslo-Slocan or SC Philip Gaglardi of Kamloops. These two can hold the attention of the House a long time—though they're entirely different types of speakers. And pity the poor fellow who comes after either. He can make no impression at all.

Mr. Gaglardi staged a great show, a whale of a circus, during the budget debate. He had the time of his life and admitted it. He pounded at the opposition and, mostly, the opposition sat and took it. Mr. Gaglardi roared and shouted, and admitted that, too, and asked why shouldn't he roar and shout when he has something to roar and shout about. He said he'd been sitting bottled up so long listening to what he called warmed-over old hash from the opposition that he thought he'd blow up—and then, right on the floor of the house he did blow up, with spectacular results.

Opposition Leader Strachan had evidently made up his mind to ignore Mr. Gaglardi, and he did—for about 45 minutes, and then Mr. Gaglardi got under Mr. Strachan's skin. Mr. Strachan then proceeded to snipe at Mr. Gaglardi and Mr. Strachan, losing his temper, called Mr. Gaglardi dishonest. Mr. Speaker Irwin said Mr. S. would have to withdraw that offending, unparliamentary word dishonest, and, grudgingly, Mr. Strachan did. During this melee Mr. Uphill of Fernie observed in a loud voice that the public galleries should be paying amusement tax. And this, of course, brought forth a roar of merriment from all, including the public galleries, which aren't supposed to laugh or show any other signs that they're human.

All the SC'ers are saying what a wonderful thing for B.C. is the Wenner-Gren proposal to develop the north, and all the oppositionists express great doubt about it. Thus is the House divided, but SC'ers so outnumber the oppositionists that the Wenner-Gren proposals will come about if the government and Mr. Wenner-Gren and Mr. Gunderson so desire—and Premier Bennett seems determined to have Mr. Wenner-Gren into the north building a railway. When the Premier gets determined that's usually that.

SC'ers, too, are preparing their stage for the coming Federal election. They're all taking hefty swipes at Ottawa's money policies. The Premier, it may be suspected, tells them to do this, and, being good SC'ers, and admiring the Premier, and trusting him, most of them do exactly as he tells them, and there's nothing wrong in this; it only shows the strength of the Premier's leadership.

One thing there won't be any argument on is the increase in indemnities to MLA's, and increases in cabinet ministers' salaries. MLA's are now receiving $5,000 a year; the Premier's total salary has gone up to $20 000 and cabinet ministers to $17,500. A session of the Legislature now costs close to $350,000. You figure out how much that is per day for, say, seven weeks.

OTTAWA DIARY By Norman M. MacLeod

The latest word on the coming budget—still subject to a last-minute change that is considered unlikely — is the most cheering yet.

Liberal sources which customarily know what they are talking about say that the government is going to increase old age pensions by five dollars per month and cut personal and corporation income taxes into the bargain.

That's more than the general run of Parliament Hill circles really expected. Liberal MP's are jubilant at the prospect.

One of the most interesting features of the reported government program is that the increase in old age pension payments is n-o-t to be financed out of the expected Federal surplus of close to a half-billion dollars. Instead, it is to be made possible by a one per cent increase—from two to three per cent—in the personal and corporation income levies earmarked for the old age security fund. But then both the personal and corporation income taxes are to be cut to a greater extent so as to leave the taxpayer with a net saving.

Thus the government will really be killing two birds with the one stone. It will be both placing the old age pension fund on a self-sustaining basis—its deficit this year is $30,000,000 and the extra $5 per month will mean an additional $55,000,000—and at the same time it will be meeting the pressure of the Liberal MP's for tax cuts on the election's eve.

The CCF-ers in the House have been talking a lot about the importance of an increase in the old age pension rate. The figure at which they have been targetting has been generally $10 per month. They have contended that the increase in the price level over the years requires a $10 hoist to equate it.

On the surface the CCF argument is popular, but Capital economists recognize that it is completely fallacious. For the Socialists make their case by going back to 1945 price levels at the end of World War II. Actually, old age pension payments were only started mid-way through 1952. At that time the consumer price index stood at just a little above 118. It stands today at just a little above 119—an increase of less than two per cent.

A $5-per-month increase in the pension payments will be a 12½% increase in the Federal Government's contribution. If from this hoist the price level increase of less than two per cent since 1952 is deducted, pensioners will still be something better than 10% better off. The government considers that reasonably generous treatment.

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Firm Offers Scholarships In Agriculture

VANCOUVER — Two scholarships of $500 each, given annually by Nabob Foods Division of Kelly, Douglas and Company, Limited, Vancouver, will be awarded to students in the Faculty of Agriculture. One of these scholarships will be open to students entering the third or fourth year of the course in Food Technology, and the other will be open to students completing the fourth year of the course in Food Technology and proceeding to the fifth year.

To be eligible for these scholarships the recipients must have high standing and indicate special interest in the field. They will be selected on the basis of scholarship research ability and personal qualities. If no student qualifies for one of these awards they may both be given to students in the same year of the course.

During the summers between successive years of their undergraduate course the winners will be offered the opportunity of employment with the company. Without obligation to either the company or the winners, permanent employment may be offered on graduation to those who have enjoyed the awards. Students interested in being considered for these awards should consult the Dean of Administrative and Inter-Faculty Affairs.

SWEET NOTHINGS

NEWCASTLE - UPON - TYNE, England (CP)—Walls in some of the apartments here are so thin that wives complain they can hear "sweet nothings" whispered by newly-weds next door. City authorities asked the housing committee to investigate.

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