

Highway Hopes and Promises

It is safe to say that the entire population of the Prince Rupert riding joins MLA William H. Murray in, as he told the Legislature, looking "forward with a great deal of interest to appropriations for Highway 16, the northern trans-provincial highway, particularly that portion between Prince Rupert east to Terrace." We have unbounded admiration for Mr. Murray, who in his maiden speech told his fellow Social Creditors that "no reconstruction work whatsoever has been done at the Prince Rupert end by this administration, nor has one inch of pavement been laid." Furthermore, we cannot help but urge our member to continue his efforts to have the minister of highways call for tenders on the reconstruction of Highway 16 beginning at the Prince Rupert end and bring the road up to provincial high standards of curves and grades. From this latter remark, it can be quite easily understood that Mr. Murray shares the same opinion as we do on the hurried 20 miles of pre-election road put down between Terrace and Shames. The people of Prince Rupert and those along Highway 16 both want and deserve a good highway, one of good standards and grades and curves that will stand up to our northern climate.

However, it is a joy to learn that our dusty road to Terrace is going to share the same benefits bestowed on the highways in Highway Minister Gagliardi's riding of Kamloops and Premier Bennett's Kelowna district. Dust-coated travellers from Prince Rupert were amazed last year when travelling near Kamloops and throughout the Okanagan to find that dust wasn't allowed there. Instead enthusiastic sprinklers kept the roads that were under construction so free of dust that in 90-degree temperature it was often muddy.

But we shouldn't be too unhappy. The minister assures us that the paving program is to continue and if we live long enough, many of us should be around to see the time when we can drive all the way to Prince George on pavement.

News about the road from Port Edward to Cassiar Cannery isn't as good as Highway 16 news given to the Chamber of Commerce. Both Hugo Kraupner, Chamber highways committee chairman and Mr. Murray appear to have run up against equal amounts of confusion. What could have been an all-winter project seems to have bogged down and all we are left with is Mr. Gagliardi's statement to Mr. Murray that the highways department is morally committed to the completion of the road. Mr. Gagliardi shouldn't have to remind us of that since we are supposed to believe him when he says that his department will carry a project through to the end, as he did some time ago. A little quickening of the process would be welcome.

The Chamber seems to have the McClymont park bridge and the extension of the proposed Stewart-Cassiar road to join up with Highway 16, well in hand as both projects are somewhat nebulous. We could presume that progress on the former awaits the arrival of spring and we know from experience that a federal-provincial scheme such as the Cassiar-Stewart plan is in the lap of the gods and time. However, what with promises of pushing the Kitimat-Terrace highway to completion by the end of 1957 or early 1958, continued paving and distribution of a blade mix on Highway 16, modifying the approach to and building a new McClymont park bridge, there is going to be so much equipment in the district it will look like Lillooet before the by-election. One thing is certain, when we see all the equipment, we will believe progress is being made.

Children Need Support

TONIGHT sees the opening of the Tenth Annual Competitive Dancing and Drama Festival at the Civic Centre. The four-day festival will see young stars of all ages go through their paces under the eagle eyes of adjudicators. The children will learn, before they are through ballet, tap or folk dancing, taking part in choral speaking, reciting Shakespeare, acting in a play, whether it is worth their own or their parents or teachers' while. In any case, since some will be making their first appearance on stage, we wish them well.

More to the point, it would help those who are to take part in the festival. If their parents would attend the festival to see their children perform, any seasoned actor or actress or dancer will confirm that they give their best to a "good house." Even children are encouraged to do better if faced by a large and sympathetic audience.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

We must be John to be alone. —Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• Shaw Laughs Last

NOBCDY knows for sure whether or not the late George Bernard Shaw is in a position to know what is going on in our lands of the living.

If the sardonic old Irish playwright is in touch with mundane affairs, he must certainly be getting many a chuckle over the lawsuit about his will. The clever old boy amassed a really mammothized estate in his lifetime—almost a cool million dollars, in our money. But he left almost all of it for a typical Shawian enterprise—to study the best ways and means of promoting a new "world alphabet" to replace the dozen other alphabets illegible mankind already has.

Shaw was more like a legendary carny Scot than a free-and-easy Irishman. He obviously spent many months preparing to outwit the fortune hunters and will-breakers. He tied up all of the royalties on his plays for many decades after his death. Nobody knows whether Shaw had correctly guessed how well this would turn out. But the fact is the money is literally pouring in a flood, in no small part due to the fact that "My Fair Lady" is a smash hit now.

As most people know, "My Fair Lady" is a musical re-write of Shaw's play "Pygmalion".

BUT Shaw is doing better at the box office than his lawyers are doing in the British courts. The latter have just found in favour of the British museum, which wants and will get the money which Shaw left to promote his world alphabet. The museum's lawyers have successfully convinced the British judges that Shaw's world alphabet was a half-brained and impractical scheme. Hence it looks as if the British museum would get a reasonably substantial sum intended by Shaw to give the world his new forty-letter alphabet.

THE British museum is not the sole beneficiary of the court's verdict. Certain Irish institutions will also come in for a substantial windfall from the work of this famous Irishman. But the canny Irish lawyers would not join with those of the British museum. In the early part of 1948 he was appointed staff officer (Torpedo) to the Commander-in-Chief Canadian North West Atlantic. He transferred to the regular force in November of the same year.

He returned to Stadacona in August, 1941, for duty in the Torpedo School and in June, 1942, went overseas for a torpedo specialist course and anti-submarine and tactical courses. In a brief statement, (perhaps with tongue in cheek) the Irish exemplified what most laymen would consider to be a brilliant example of "British fairplay." They stated they had no desire to frustrate the wishes of the famous Irishman who had left the money.

And so the world may never know whether or not Shaw was or was not on the right track.

From the point of pure logic he had an unanswerable case. He argued that the world was all broken up into bits and pieces, not only by national boundaries, and by scores of different languages, but above all by the fact that the various lan-

First Claim On Power Said Kootenays

VICTORIA, B.C.—The Mica Creek dam on the Columbia River should be financed by a Canadian Columbia River Joint Authority, the legislature was told Tuesday.

The generating plant on the Mica project should be installed and operated by a body that will consider power needs of the interior and eastern sections of the province, Richard Newton (SC-Columbia) said.

"We in the Kootenays, where the Columbia River has its source, feel we should have first claim on any hydro-development that takes place."

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