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CNR dismantling plan may benefit city

A T first glance the announcement by the Canadian National Railways that the company plans to dismantle its present dock and shift its operations and facilities to the Ocean dock would appear to foreshadow another reverse in Prince Rupert fortunes. On second thought, however, the move should be a welcome one as it should lead to greater development of the city's waterfront.

That is a strange statement to make because when Prince Rupert got its start, the CNR or Grand Trunk Pacific as it was known 48 years ago, was the ruling influence in this port that was going to become a second San Francisco.

It was the GTP's idea to promote this port. For years the company owned most of the major areas in the city, particularly the waterfront. What with the inaccessibility of Prince Rupert from the rest of what in those days was a sparsely settled province, the railway and its steamship service provided the only means of transportation in or out.

The CNR has played a truly vital role in both the history and progress of Prince Rupert. The city owes a debt of gratitude to the company. Its ships brought in settlers, supplies and supplied a link with the outside world for those already here. Its shippard produced good ships during both world wars. Its drydock provided a haven for large fishing vessels in need of repairs or overhaul. But in the end it cost the Canadian taxpayer too much for too little.

Now with air travel driving steamships into drydock, the 'CNR, like any other prudent business man or firm, can see the handwriting on the wall. Manning and operating a passenger ship costs a lot of money. They hadn't made money for years before the weekly service was disbanded. For the same reason, why spend \$48,000 a yar for a deteriorating dock when another, better one will suffice. It is logical to consolidate one's facilities in the most feasible and economical site.

Nor will this be the end of the CNR's tidying-up program. Railway president Donald Gordon wanted the whole CNR waterfront and yards spruced up two years ago when he was here. We wouldn't be surprised, if, in the eventual plans the mechanical headquarters for the whole Smithers division aren't moved to Terrace. The rail line is entirely dieselized. There are new quarters built in the interior. Prince Rupert will be just the end of the line for a diminishing passenger service and an increasing freight proposition.

With the present CNR dock gone and if the old drydock and shipyard sites were completely cleaned up, with the exception of the city's power plant, outside interests could see the value of our waterfront acreage for new in-

We pay sincere tribute to the CNR for its part in helping to build Prince Rupert in the past and at the same time commend the company for facing facts and disposing of non-paying facilities that cost more than they are worth to keep going.

Minister on the move

CINCE he reached the heights of national party leader and Prime Minister, John G. Diefenbaker has shown a prodigious capacity for work and travel. There is no sign of his energies flagging. This fall, while the House of Commons and the Senate are resting from their labors, he plans to make a world tour and a visit to Canada's north country.

In the latter, a brief trip which nevertheless will set a precedent for Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Diefen-

baker apparently will confine his attention to the Yukon Territory. Even so, there should be some value to his government and to the nation in the first-hand look at the North he will take. Things always look somewhat different on the spot than they do from a distance of hundreds or thousands of miles; and even a short visit can be instructive, and perhaps illuminating, provided that the visitor is not continually tied up in official engagements. —The Edmonton Journal.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

France's crucial vote only two weeks away

By ED SIMON Canadian Press Staff Writer

An two weeks the French voter must choose between a new constitution that may lead to dictatorship and an alternative of which the only clear definition has been a half of machine-gun fire

The attempt by Algerian terrorists to asrasjonate Jacques Sourtelle, Gen, de Gaulle's uninister of information and the arch-enemy of their nationalist aspirations, undoubtedly will frighten many Frenchmen into giving de-Caulle the powers he is usking for in the

mational referendum Sept. 28. troadeally, the fusillade of shots, which is likely to intensity the government in its suppression of potential opposition, came just after the Socialist and Radical parties, which had offered the only substantial non-Communist resistance to the general's proposals, voted to po along with de Gaulle.

Prance's worst political weakness --- the tendency to vote apainst a course of action without offering a substitute appears to have Deen overcome at last. Today it is plain to most Prenchmen that the substitute for the

de Gaulle constitution is violence. They have less to tear from the sporadic activities of the terrorists and the countermeasures of the police than from two other mennetmy forces, as yet unmobilized.

There have been open threats from the purntroopers of Gen. Jucques Mussu, whose bloodless overthrow of the civil authority in Algeria brought the general to power. And there is the continuing suspicion that the communists, strangely quiet since the crisis begun, may be planning an aprising in France's industrial areas

Against this background, it is not surprising that the Radicals rejected the plan of their former lender, Pierre Mendes-France,

calling for a constituent assembly to make a fresh approach to the constitutional problem. Even staunch opponents of de Gaulle doubt that such an assembly would be given a chance to complete its deliberations.

De Gaulle proposes the election of a president, presumably himself, for a seven-year term by a special body of 100,000 electors. The president would name a prime minister and accept his nominations for a cabinet. As in the United States, ministers would not be members of the National Assembly.

The assembly, previously able to overthrow a government by a majority vote of those present, would have to summon a majority of all its members in a vote of consure.

The president, a virtual figure-head under the Fourth Republic, would be entitled to dissolve parliament once a year, submit leg-Islation to a referendum and assume emergency powers in the event of a threat to the independence and integrity of the nation.



The proposals offer a choice of freedom or local autonomy to all Franco's overseas territories except Algeria, which continues to be regarded as part of Metropolitan France. It is the fallure to make a similar offer to Algeria, a move that would have been unthinkable to the general's French allies there, that made Soustelle the terrorists' target in

Frow voters will muster enthusiasm for the general's reforms. But many will be conscious of the harsh fact that it may be their lash chance to control their own destiny for years

Under the circumstances, they are likely to put their trust in a general who has turned politician rather than politicians reaching for



Withholding names of casualties

From The Kamloops Sentinel

country are continually fighting to preserve their readers' right to be informed because there are always governments, groups and individuals with something to hide. Some of the attitudes are understandable, if intolerable, but none is less reasonable than the withholding of names of accident vic-

During the war it became the custom of the armed forces to delay publication of casualty lists for long periods.

Obviously, during a war, there is reason to delay because in many instances there were mistakes in identity, and there was always hope of locating "missing" persons.

But after the war civilian police began adopting the practice. Almost every accident report, even in smal communities, ended with the silly sentence: Names of the victims have been withheld pending notification of nextof-kin. During recent years, happily, most police forces have comento recognize that whale they have a responsibility to notify next-of-kin immediately, they have no right to withhold victims' names.

The armed forces, unfortunately, are still working under wartime rules. Canadian friends of NATO pilots involved in accidents while training in Canada are sometimes not informed for two weeks after the accident.

In these days of quick communication it is possible to contact any civilized area of the world within minutes. Certainly a few hours is ample time to notify next-of-kin, even through a padre. Much of the delay is often caused by the failure of the padre, priest or clergyman to confirm that he has notified next-of-

kin. In civilian cases delays are caused not in notifying next-of-kin but in notifying distant relatives and friends. No one will dispute that a wife, husband, parent or child should be the first to be notifried of the death of a member of the family. But that notification should be made promptly to the next-of-kin, and

there the responsibility of the informer, whether it be police or armed service, ends. Then the information becomes public property, and any delay is an infringement on the public's right to be informed. The recent mid-air collision

of two Canadian jet planes over an RCAF base in France points up the most convincing argument in favor of immediate release of accident viclims' names. There are hundreds of Canadian airmen serving in France, and the relatives and friends of every one of them were put through 24 hours or more of anguish while they waited for the names to be released. The three flyers who were killed could have been any of hundrds; the medical man could have been any of dozens, and the woman hospital patient could have been the wife of any of the air force personnel serving in

By withholding names of dead persons, anxiety is often caused to families not affected, and friends of families that are affected are unable to help at the time help is need-

It is time the armed forces, which started this ridiculous carry-over of warime restriction, adopted more realistic peacetime practice. Other groups including police, that are not bound by military redtap, need not wait for a change in standing orders.

The summit and the plain From The Christian Science Monitor

mit" to which many peaceseeking people have attached possibly exaggerated, possibly warranted, hopes, the United Nations General Assembly meeting stretches like a flat plain, exposing the motives as well as the maneuvers of world forces. Some have felt that when the great powers put their disputes in this vast perspective they were likely to

Compared with the "sum-

lose the hope of solutions which for some reason seemed to these same people to grow more incandescent with sheer and morely figurative

This is a good time to remember that the summit is always there. And free nations that move toward solutions of international difficulties at any level-through negotiation when possible or through an increase of unity when negotlation appears fruitless --may justly feel somewhat as did those wanderers in Mark Twain's "A Tramp Abroad." T. W. Meade of Cambridge,

England, recently referred to

this work of Mark Twain's in a litter to The (London) Times: "Sir-This extract from 'A Tramp Abroad' by Mark Twaln

has a very topical flavour: "'As soon as the men saw with their own eyes that they know where they were, and that it was only the summit that was lost and not themselves, they cheered up instantly and said with one accord, let the summit take care of Itself, they were not interested in its troubles'."

What fishing does From the Regina Leader-Post..

Let the non-supporter of fishing scoff and call it a lazy sport. Little does he know the norogrinations of the fisherman's mind, what inventions, great works of art, or even so_ lutions to some of the world's most pressing problems may evelve. The size of the fish enught is incidental. It's what fishing does to the inner man that counts. It is one of the few havens of peace and quiet loft to him.

STANDING in middle of courtyard before an authentic rep-

miss who can't believe her eyes. Fabulous reconstruction in miniature by corporation headed by world famous cartoonist attracts millions of tourists to California show place now in its lifth year. From The Brandon Sun There are just two sorts of

women, those who do not be-

lieve what their husbands tell

them and those who haven't

any husbands.

No radar allowed

From The Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

For years (especially at the beginning of the tourist season) Scots have reported seeing a monster "with a head like a dragon and long loops of neck like a sea serpent" in Loch Ness. This has "... become known as the "Loch Ness Monster."

Recently a group of frogmen wanted Parliament to give them a subsidy to probe for the monster. But they were squelched in this desire by Sir. James Hutchinson, a Scottish member. He noted: "The monster is a source of considerable tour-

ist interest to Scotland. Please do nothing to explode it."

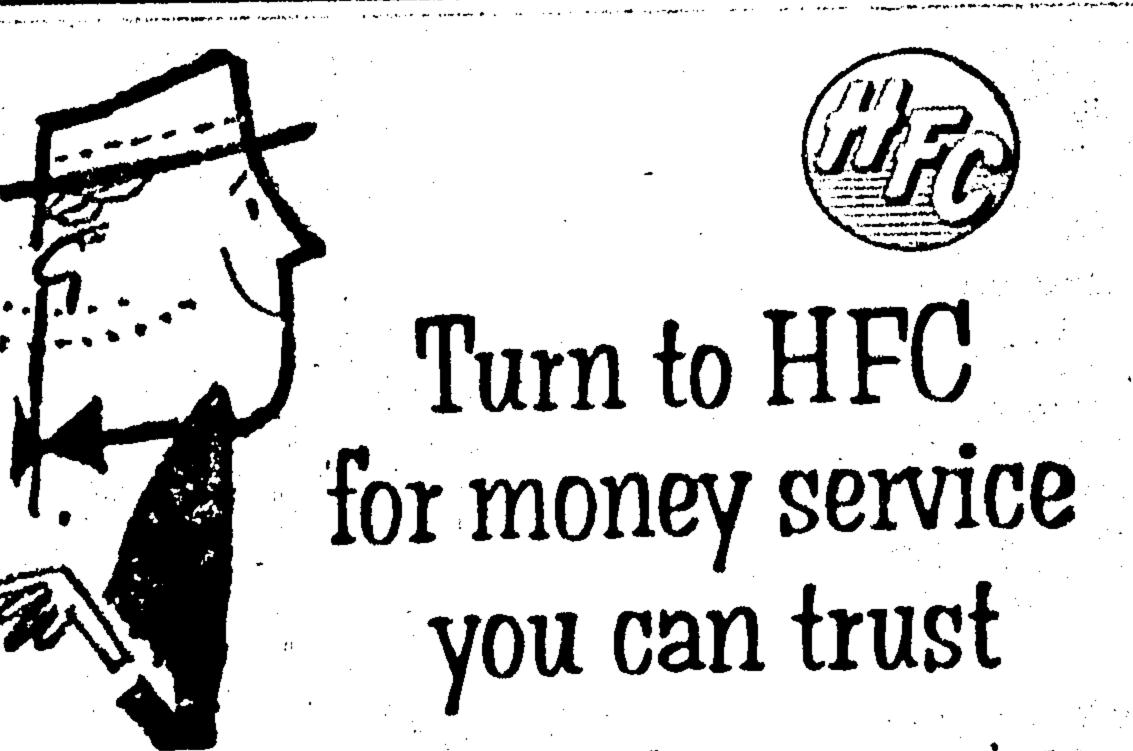
The Scots know a good thing when they don't see it.

Dr. K. O. FLEMING.

EYE SPECIALIST

will be in the City from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3

Please phone your family doctor for appointment.

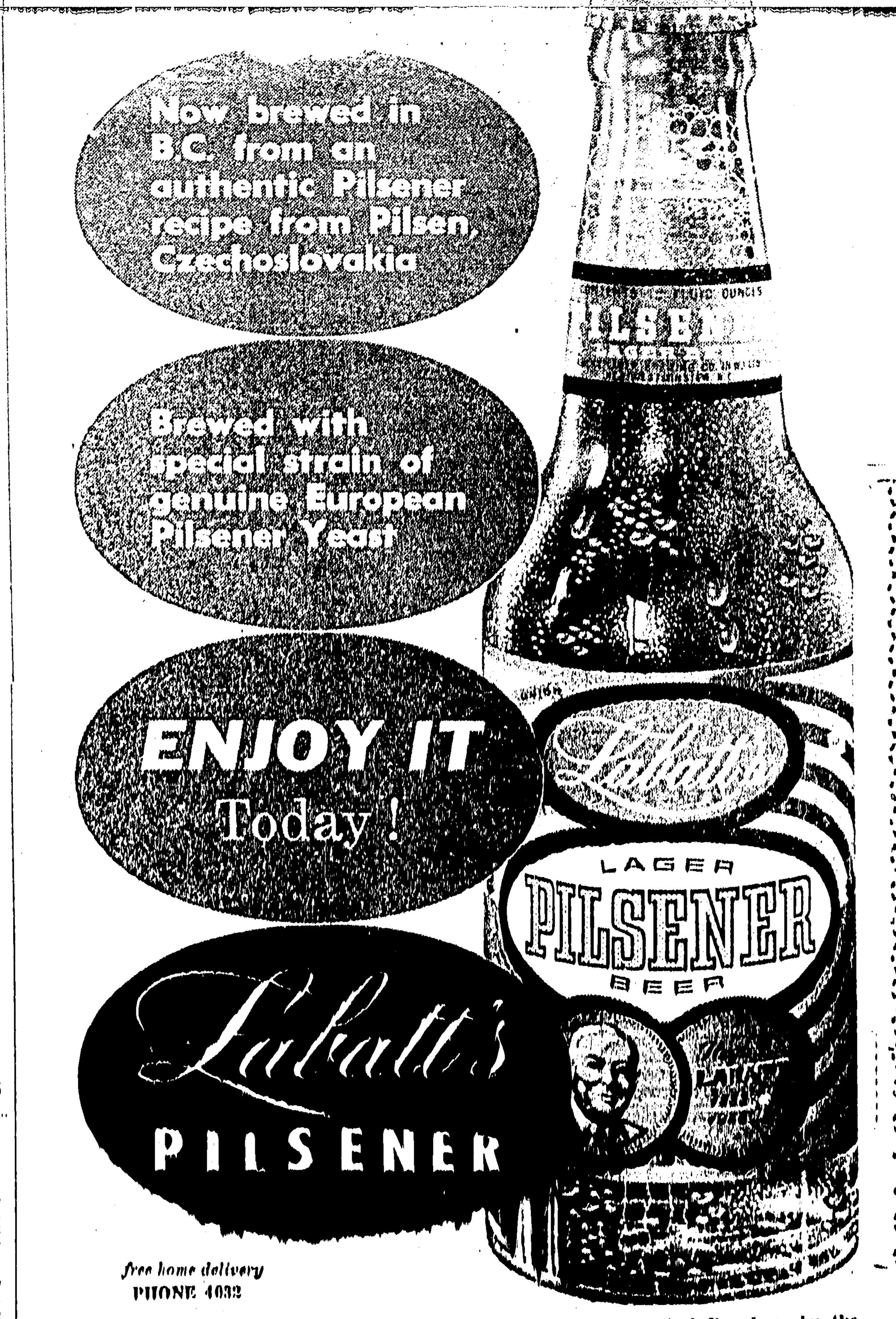


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