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Prince Rupert Should Serve North

SOME idea of the importance attached to penetrating through Alaska into northern B.C. and the Yukon can be gained from the report that a $6 million oil refinery will be built at the all-year port of Haines to serve Whitehorse as well as points in Alaska. To put the refinery into use a pipeline will be constructed from Haines, located at the northern end of the Panhandle, to Haines Junction in the Yukon where it will connect with the wartime-built Canol pipeline now serving Whitehorse and points in Alaska as far as Fairbanks. This part of the program will cost $3.5 million. In addition, terminal facilities will be established at Haines to enable it to handle whatever deep-sea shipping is required.

The scheme, which will get underway this spring, is an indication of the need to bring our interior northland into immediate contact with the sea. Whitehorse, a city of enormous potential which is almost ruinously handicapped by lack of transportation facilities, is only one example of a northern centre striving for growth against fearful odds. In the northern half of our province there are other localities such as Cassiar and Tulsequah which, with all their mineral resources, will never attain their deserved place on the map until they have ready means of communication with seaport facilities and the rest of the continent.

Without prejudice or intent to ask for something that is not justified, it may be said that this is where Prince Rupert comes in. Although it does not seem to be fully realized beyond our own environs, this port has everything required for a major transportation centre serving northern B.C. in the same manner that Vancouver functions as a port for the rest of the province. It is spacious, open all year and has connections with the interior. But for some reason there has been no overall plan as yet to establish it as a terminal serving the undeveloped north. Prince George has been brought into touch with the bountiful Peace River district but no similar scheme has been introduced to put this city within reach of the rich area behind the Alaskan Panhandle.

However, the construction of an airport here may be regarded as a first and essential step towards bringing this about. By this means Prince Rupert may start to regain the close contacts it once held with the north country. On the heels of air traffic may come more pressure for the construction of roads, and maybe a rail line, to establish this as a fully operative outlet to the sea for northern B.C. The picture may look like a pipe-dream now but it will materialize just as surely as the north is destined to grow.

"No Word for Sin"

A white man who became a monk in the Saanyasi Order, and evidently an authority on Indian religions and philosophies, cites a curious fact. "There's no word for sin in any of the Indian languages," he says, and there are many languages and dialects in India.

Sin, of course, is a rather flexible term. What may to us seem a sin may not seem so to the natives of Borneo. Or what may strike them as quite sinful may be acceptable to us.

But the mere fact there is no word for "sin" in the language of India does not imply there is no sin there. They may have other words to define those things they believe morally, spiritually or even physically wrong. A people may be without a word for "sin" but, being human, a certain proportion of them will do wrong—or all of them will do wrong in a certain proportion.

—Windsor Star.

Home Planning in Case of Fire Can Avert Life, Property Loss

Each year, as the weather continues, newspaper headlines reveal the tragic loss of life caused by fires in the home.

This loss of life can best be avoided by eliminating all possible causes of fire in the home. But if fire should strike, the All Canada Insurance Federation, representing more than 200 Canadian fire, automobile and casualty insurance companies, offers these rules to help minimize property loss and prevent loss of life.

- Know the location of the nearest fire alarm box and learn how it is operated.
- Buy a fire extinguisher for your home (your local fire department will advise you as to the best type) and learn how to use it properly.
- Keep your fire department's telephone number by the telephone at all times.
- Report any fire immediately.
- If a fire starts, have all occupants leave the house before you begin fire-fighting operations.
- Always leave baby sitters with complete instructions on what to do in case of fire.
- At first sign of fire close all doors and windows except those needed for escape.
- Do not wait to dress children; simply wrap them in blankets.
- Keep exits clear and unobstructed by boxes of furniture.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• Pension Battle

A REAL battle is going on in the parliament of Canada over the question of an increase in the old age pensions. Part of this battle is public and part is fought out behind the scenes.

The crux of the battle is this: Would an increase in the old age pensions, say of 25 per cent over the present level, result in inflation.

Some of the financial experts really believe that Canada is in deadly danger of what they call runaway inflation. As everybody knows, the classic definition of inflation is "too much money chasing too few goods." Hence if the parliament of Canada were to pass a law raising the universal old age pension from $40 to $50 a month—would that be like pouring gasoline on the fires of inflation?

Some financial authorities say —yes it would. But it is obvious from the private conversation of the MPs of all four parties, even more than from their public speeches, that this fear is not shared by the people actually chosen by the electors.

MY OWN view is that an increase in the old age pension would not be inflationary.

It is true that there are now almost 800,000 Canadians of 70 years of age or over drawing the $40 per month, without a means test of any kind.

It is also true that an additional 100,000 persons drawing either the old age assistance grants, or blind persons allowances, on the means test basis.

Hence there are at least 900,000 persons directly concerned with any increase in old age pensions and the similar grants.

WHILE it is true that a considerable number of the people who draw the universal old age security pensions do not desperately need the money—in the sense that they would not be destitute without it—is is equally true that most of it goes to pay for food, rent, clothing, taxes or other similar items which are not subject to the dangerous pressures of inflation.

Hence most of the MPs feel that the financial theorists tend to overemphasise the dangers of inflation, so far as old age pensions are concerned.

IN ONE sense, old age pensions are badly named. They could more accurately be called universal savings for old age. It is quite true that the amount of money which has so far been collected directly from the people, to be earmarked for the old age security funds, has never yet been quite enough to offset the total outlays on the $40 per month grants.

In that sense, the old age pensions funds are still in the red, so to speak. But the trend is toward a balanced budget, on old age pension accounts.

SOME of the Liberal MP's are swinging to the support of the plan adopted a few years ago by the Senior Citizens association of B.C., whereby generous supplements would be paid to old age pensioners who really need the money—that is over the regular $40 at 70. Instead of the old fashioned and humiliating means tests, under social work techniques, eligibility would be decided on the basis of whether or not the pensioner who needed the supplement was exempt from paying income tax. If so, he or she would automatically be entitled to the supplement.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Parliament Hill political circles are far less confident than they were a few weeks ago that the coming federal general election will be held in June. Many of the political crystal gazers now are predicting a May election date.

The smallness of the government's legislative program and the reported intention to bring the budget down early are cited in support of the earlier voting date. MP's now are attributing to the government a desire to wind up the work of the session shortly after mid-March.

Another straw which suggests that the election wind is starting to blow ahead of schedule is the new interest shown by the Liberals in getting nominating conventions and the basic preliminaries of organization over in the ridings. Word is said to have gone out from federal headquarters here that all such arrangements should be expedited as rapidly as possible.

If the election is held from three weeks to a month earlier than the Capital's politicians had generally expected, it will n-o-t be for any particular reasons of Liberal strategy, but merely from a desire to have the whole complicated business of campaigning and voting over in the most comfortable weather possible. A mid-June election could mean some very hot campaigning weather. Liberal politicians would like to spare their other senior vote-getting figures.

From the standpoint of the opposition parties, an earlier voting date is unlikely to stir any serious objections. PC, CCF, and Socred campaign plans have been in the works ever since the last session of Parliament, when the government was credited with thoughts of springing a surprise vote late in 1956. The Opposition parties, consequently, will be able to accommodate themselves to almost any date this year that the government may pick.

One of the features of the coming contest will be the number of Liberal MP's who, for a variety of reasons, personal and otherwise, will duck it. The list is headed by Cabineteer George Prudham of Alberta, who plans to devote himself to private business. It also includes such private member veterans as Rev. Daniel Melvor of Port Arthur, Angus MacInnis of Vancouver, "Jack" Smith of North York, Murray Clark of South Essex, and W. D. Wylie of Medicine Hat. All these individuals have an established reputation for usefulness in the House, and the new Parliament will seem strange without them. Equally missed will be a sprinkling of promising junior MP's who have had their first taste of public life and have decided not to return for more. Prominent in this category are Donald Carrick of Toronto-Trinity (Liberal) and Carl O. Nickle of South Calgary (PC). Replacements for young blood of this calibre aren't going to be easy to find.

THE LETTERBOX

MORE HOMES NEEDED

The Editor,
The Daily News:

Through the medium of your newspaper we would like to thank all the good citizens who opened their hearts and their homes to the Hungarian refugees.

It was most gratifying to find so many generous people and it made our task so much easier.

We would also like to thank those who offered their homes but to whom no Hungarians were allotted this time. We wish to remind those people and any other interested persons that there will be more refugees arriving in the future who will need accommodations.

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MAJ.-GEN. E. L. M. BURNS (left), Canadian commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, arrives in Port Said for a conference on plans for clearing the blocked Suez Canal. With him are senior officers from Anglo-French headquarters, not identified in this United Nations photo. (CP Photo).

Report From

PARLIAMENT

By E. T. APPLEWHAITE, MP Skeena

The problem of evaluating and describing the location and extent of the natural resources of South-East Asia has faced the Colombo Plan countries ever since the birth of the Plan.

The development of the techniques of aerial survey have in the past 20 years greatly reduced the cost and time required for such an evaluation. It is not surprising therefore, that the principles of aerial survey have been widely adopted in the countries of South-East Asia.

In 1952 the Government of Canada let a contract to the Photographic Survey Corporation Ltd. of Toronto for $3,000,000 for a very comprehensive survey in West Pakistan. In 1955 this was increased by a further $1,000,000. In 1955, Ceylon obtained Canada's aid under the Colombo Plan for $500,000 for aerial survey. The contract for the Canadian participation in this work also went to the Photographic Survey Corporation.

The Ceylon Government, in adopting aerial survey methods, is spending large sums in providing a new building, equipment and staff for this joint venture. Just another example of Canadian leadership and Canadian help to sister Commonwealth nations.

Prime Minister Menzies of Australia has come under severe criticism for his all-out support of Sir Anthony Eden in the Suez crisis. In Canada federal conservatives bitterly reproached Mr. St. Laurent for his criticism of the Eden policy. But Conservative opposition to the St. Laurent-Pearson policy has been a political dud, incapable of arousing echoes even at the Conservative National Convention only a few weeks later. But it is only now, in the light of Australian news, that the total absurdity of the position taken by the Conservatives becomes obvious.

The other day I gave the Director of Indian Affairs a copy of "Tales of Kitamaat" by Gordon Robinson, as he had not seen it. He is putting this copy in the Library of the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

In the government's planning for the Prince Rupert airport it is expected to spend the sum of $000,000 this year. The project is past what is known as "first stage development." All preliminary investigations for this airport are now complete and it is hoped to call tenders in time for an early start of work in the fiscal year commencing Mar. 31.

Private members bills continue to be introduced. In the last week we have had two by Stanley Knowles, both to amend the Income Tax Act. The first has as its purpose to make it possible for a Minister of the Crown to communicate to parliament information obtained under the Income Tax Act with respect to Corporations. The other would provide that when corporations take an appeal to the income tax appeal board the hearing shall be in public. As I understand it, it is a basic principal of our income tax law that information as to the taxpayers' affairs is always to be kept strictly confidential, so I don't think either bill will get much support.

I have to confess that I have been rather lukewarm about the Canada Council, but after listening to Mr. St. Laurent when he introduced the resolution I am no longer a doubter. The resolution is in three parts, first to establish the Canada Council; second to endow it with fifty million dollars; and third to pay, through the Canada Council, fifty million dollars over the next ten years towards universities' capital costs. The Prime Minister said that he believes that this resolution for the establishment of a Canada Council for the encouragement of the arts, humanities and social sciences represents not only the considered views of the government, but the clearly expressed wishes and hopes of Members on both sides of the House and of practically all thoughtful Canadians who are really concerned about the future welfare of this country.

He thought it unnecessary to remind the House that the parts of the whole which was achieved by Confederation are so articulated together that each can move quite freely, serving and nourishing the whole nation with its own particular skills and its own particular identity. But of course we all want also to develop a national spirit and a national identity.

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Worry Over Death Duties Law Shortening Britons' Lifespan

LONDON (Reuters) — Worry that they won't be able to win a five-year gamble against death duties is reported to be hacking into the lifespan of wealthy Britons.

The macabre fretting about the high cost of dying was reported today by a London surgeon who said the well-to-do can cause a serious threat to their health if they worry about staying alive for five years to avoid taxes at death.

Under British law, a person must live at least five years after making a gift before it comes free of estate duty. The period was extended from three to five years in 1946.

Lord Webb-Johnson, surgeon to the late Queen Mary, said the five-year period leads to "serious anxiety states, particularly as it nears the end."

MENTAL TORTURE

Webb-Johnson, surgeon to the Journal of the Institute of Company Directors, added that a graduated scheme "would avoid the mental torture of the present arrangements and a serious threat to health."

The Institute wants the "five-year gamble" to be replaced by a scheme under which duties would drop by one-fifth each year after making of a gift.

In recent years, several large landed estates have been broken up to provide for death duties following the failure of their owners to live the five-year period. Among outstanding examples were the dukes of Bedford, Devonshire and Somerset.

The Duke of Bedford died in 1953, only 11 weeks before the end of the five-year period when substantial gifts to his family would have become free of duty. The Duke of Devonshire's provisions for his family failed by three weeks and this cost the family an estimated £1,000,000 extra in duties. The Duke of Somerset failed by three years to live out the "gamble."

ENGLISH GHOSTS GO MODERN

With its ancient manors and foggy streets England has always been a HAPPY HAUNTING ground for ghosts.

Today an R.A.F. Canteen stands on the site of a ruined abbey; BBC studios have replaced a haunted house; Scotland Yard trains recruits in an ancient chateau—BUT the ghosts are still there! In fact one has even taken over a subway.

Read "Ghosts In Modern Haunts" in this week's issue of the Star Weekly.

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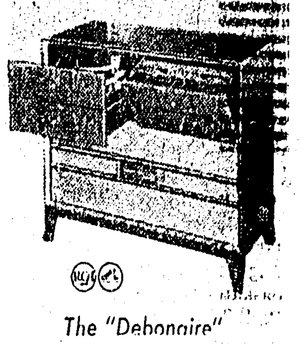

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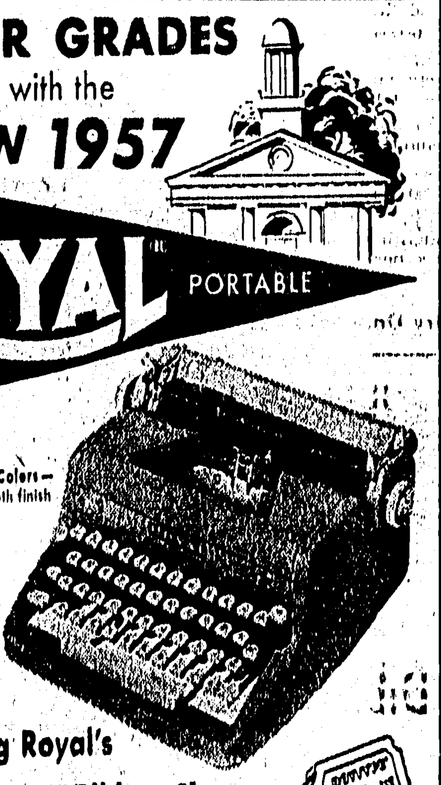

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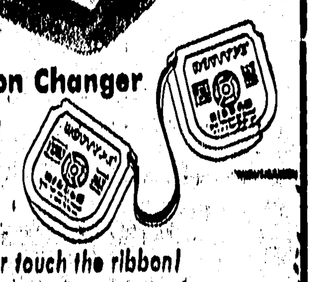

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