An independent newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia. A member of The Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulation — Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited

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Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department; Ottawa

MONDAY, MAY 26, 1958

Libel on teen-agers

COME confusion of thought prompted a motion placed before the recent Canadian Highway Safety Conference in Edmonton which, if it had been carried, would have raised the minimum age qualification for drivers from the present 16 years to 18. Better judgment prevailed, however, and the motion was rejected—as it deserved to

That action by a nation-wide organization constituted to promote safety in traffic may appear at first glance to be in contradiction to its obsjectives. What it really amount to, however, was a defeat for those who in this as in other matters to do with the conduct of teen-agers would condemn all decent youngsters for the bad behavior of a minority. Despite the fact that the accident rate is higher in their age group it is still only a small minority which causes all the trouble. The thousands of young people between the age of 16 and 18 who consistently drive skilfully and safely who often show far better traffic manners than some of their elders, especially those in the twenties and thirties—rarely receive a nod of appreciation. Instead they are automatically suspect, for the simple reason that they are teen-agers.

The adult who asserts that no one

under 18 should hold a driving licence is talking nonsense. There is a teenage driving problem, and a serious one; but to attempt to solve it by raising the age limit is to confuse age with ability to perform. A licence is a certificate of ability, granted in this province only on proof in the form of a strict examination.

Behavior at the wheel is another matter. No one would deny that there are many young people who flagrantly abuse the privilege of holding a licence, to the peril of themselves and others. An analysis of accident statistics would probably establish, however, that a bad attitude towards public safety is proportionately higher among those in the late teens and early twenties than among those between 16 and 18, in which case raising the age limit by two years would serve no purpose.

In any event why should youngsters who conduct themselves well be punished without trial for the sins of the others? A more effective remedy would be to make young drivers realize that driving is a privilege by taking away their licences for any infraction of the safety laws, whether an accident has occurred or not.

-- The Victoria Colonist.

Dig yourself

Fear of dictatorship keeps France hopping

By HARVEY HUDSON

Associated Press Staff Writer

HE mother of a teen-age student and Ralph N. Peterson of the department of guidance of the Spokane public schools became engrossed one day in the ubiquitous complaint of the teen-agers about not having anything

They came up with an answer, several of them for that matter, and they are gaining in circulation. The piece is reprinted here from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

"Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teen-agers:

What can we do . . .? Where can we go ...?

I can make some suggestions. GO HOME!

"Hang storm windows, paint the woodwork. Rake the leaves. Mow the lawn. Shovel the walk. Wash the car. Learn to cook. Scrub some floors. Repair the sink. Build a boat. Get a job.

Help the minister, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Visit the sick. Assist the poor. Study your lessons.

The turbulent events of the last 10 days in Paris

and Algeria have put the spotlight on the French

political system which has resulted in 25 govern-

ments since the Second World War, This article

dominant principle of French political life for

ruled the nation with a firm hand for 10 years

before he was forced to abdicate in 1814. Some

30 years later his nephew, Napoleon III, took

the French people for ever against any kind of

strong or personal government. To guard

against a recurrence, the power in France

during both the third (1870-1940) and fourth

(sinco 1047) republics has been vested in par-

Ministers or cabinet, is voted into office by the

National Assembly and can be voted out when-

ever a majority of the deputies wish.

The executive arm, called the Council of

The memory of two Napoleons has been the

Napoleon twice seized power in France and

These two experiences seem to have decided

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

from Paris explains the system.

the last 90 years.

over in a coup.

And when you are through—and not too tired—read a book.

"Your parents do not owe you entertainment.

"Your village does not owe you recreational facilities.

"The world does not owe you a

"You owe the world something.

"You owe it your time and energy, and your talents so that no one will be at war or in poverty, or sick. or lonely again.

"In plain, simple words: 'GROW UP; quit being a crybaby; get out of your dream world; develop a backbone not a wishbone, and start acting like a man or a lady.'

"I'm a parent. I'm tired of nursing, protecting, helping, appealing, begging, excusing, tolerating. denying myself needed comforts for your every whim and fancy, just because your selfish ego instead of common sense dominates your personality, and thinking, and requests."

Great Falls (Washington) Leader.

By G. E. MORTIMORE

There are few towns so poorspirited that they cannot claim something that is the only, the biggest, the smallest -or precisely the most middlesized one of its kind.

Prince Rupert has not yet achieved any superlatives, but it has British Columbia's onlypublicly-owned telephone system and the only mayor in Canada ever to be elected while on strike-Peter Lester, who was financial secretary to Local 708, International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers on strike against the Columbia Cellulose Co. when the voters sent him to City Hall. He still works for Columbia Cellulose as an instrument mechanic. After hours and on time off he reports for duty as mayor, clad in a work shirt with open collar, a living symbol of the pleasant informality of this northern Pacific scaport.

Prince Rupert is also the home of Frank Calder, who became the first and only native Indian ever to be elected to a legislature in Canada. Calder, an ex-fisherman from the village of Greenville on the Nass River, graduated from Anglican Theological College in Vancouver. Before he could be ordained, the CCF induced him to run for Skeena constituency. He was elected.

In the next election, however, a rising Social Credit tide swept him from his seat. Now working as a bookkeeper in B.C. Packers' Sunnyside cannery just up the Skeena River from Prince Rupert, the

sharp-witted and personable Calder makes no secret of the fact that he hopes to get the CCF nomination for next election. And he hopes to win.

"They pulled the last one when most of the fishermen were out fishing," he said. "I lost by only 94 votes."

If the federal election is an indicator. Calder should stand a good chance. Predominantly a working man's town, Prince Rupert sent Frank Howard to Ottawa in defiance of numerous painted signs on the sidewalks warning the electorate: "Don't vote CCF."

The blue-collar town stays on such good terms with capitalism, nevertheless, that city fathers spent a chunk of the taxpayers' money on a survey of timber near Prince Rupert, and persuaded East Indian interests to open a big sawmiff on the site of the old drydocl:

Closing of the dock a few years ago was a heavy blow. The new sawmill should help give the town the industrial diversity which it needs. Entire mixed cargoes of canned fish and lumber will be able to load here for the Panama

Canal and Britain. At present, Prince Rupert canned salmon goes south in small vessels and has to be trans-shipped at Vancouver.

The only ships that load here now take on whole cargoes of Port Edward pulp or whole cargoes of grain at the government elevator.

Various types of business feed on one another. There is strength in diversity. In the affairs of cities, as in the affairs of individuals, success has a cumulative effect.

Another game

When one player who is a billion dollars ahead in an ininternational poker game starts to make new rules limiting the ability of his opponent to improve his cards, is it any wonder that the other player begins to feel it would be a good idea to hedge his bets by playing in another game as well?

That, in anything but diplomatic language, is why the Canadian government sponssored a Commonwealth trade and economic conference which is being held in Mon-

treal next September. -R. A. Farquharson, counsellor of the Canadian Emhassy, Washington, D.C., in an address to the Georgetown Klwanis Club.

516,000 JOBLESS IN MID-APRIL 8.6% OF LABOR FORCE 1957 1958 1956

WARM-WEATHER JOB PICK-UP-Unemployment in Canada has dropped from its winter peak as warm weather has opened up more farm jobs. Government estimates show that at April 19 a total of 516,000 were out of jobs and seeking work. The April figure was 74,000 lower than the estimate of 590,000 jobless in March which was a post-war record. The graph traces the monthly fluctuation in the numbers of the unemployed through 1956, 1957 and early 1958. It is based on the monthly survey of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The April estimate of jobless is still far ahead of the 306,000 estimated as out of work in April, 1957. (CP Newsmap)

Victoria Report

. . . by J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—There's not much doing, politically speaking, around the Legislative Buildings these splendid days of early

The politicians opposed to Mr. Bennett's government, who had hoped the Premier might panic and call a provincial general election this year, have pretty well made up their minds there won't be an election until 1960, as the Premier put himself out to announce, and repeat several times, the last week of the recent session.

That's a long way off, 1960, but, just the same, the enemies of Social Credit are girding their political loins as best they can —just in case!

Quite a number of private MLA's have been to the capital in recent days, on business for their constituents.

Mr. Uphill of Fernie spent some days here, looking chipper as ever; he'll be 84 next month. He particularly hammered away, this visit, at Highways Minister Gaglardi to get a new bridge on a highway in Fernie riding. Mr. Gaglardi said he'd look after it all right, have no worries about that, Tom, but wise old Tom had Mr. Gaglardi put it in writing, and sign it. "God bless you. Phil," said Mr. Uphill. Mr. Uphill, you see, being wise after these many years as an MLA, 38 years, remarkable record, knows that a cabinet minister likes a little soft soap now and then, same as anyone else.

CCF Mr. Gargrave of Mackenzie called at the Buildings, on the eve of taking off for University of California to enroll in summer courses in criminology and town planning, an odd mixture it sounds, but shows that versatility of young Mr. Gargrave's mind and interests. Mr. Gargrave has just completed two years of higher education at Victoria College, in the Autumn will go to UBC. He is, you see, on the long, hard road he hopes will lead him into the law.

Premier Bennett felt our history very close to him when, at a recent gathering of the B.C. Historical Association, of which he's a member, he sat with 18 of the descendants, into the sixth generation, of James Douglas, the founder of Victoria and the father of British Columbia.

Chetwynd, B.C. is the new name of Little Prairie, B.C., a stop on the PGE extension into our wonderful Peace River country. Chetwynd is named after Hon. Ralph Chetwynd, one of Mr. Bennett's cabinet ministers, who died in April last year. Mr. Chetwynd, a pleasant genial gentleman, was MLA for Cariboo. He had much to do with mapping the PGE extension into the

This time 100 years ago, rough-and-tumble Victoria was filled with miners bound for the Fraser's banks of gold, rang with much noise, as we realize when we read in The Victoria Gazette:

"Boat building—quite a large number of row boats are being constructed on our wharves and in 'French Ravine,' just back of Johnson Street, to navigate Fraser and Thompson Rivers, many miners preferring to start from here in their frail boats to taking the steamer at present prices. The steamer Surprise—the only steamer on the route—is charging \$20 fare to Fort Hope, and is unable to accommodate all applying for tickets, even at that rate. The cost of building a small-sized boat, capable of carrying a party of six or eight persons, is about \$100, depending on size and finish. There are probably now more than 100 in the course of construction at the present writing, within five minutes' walk of our office."

Going to bat From The Hamilton Spectator

It is always rash to sow the | of Michigan Tech arrived carseeds of mischlef in students. Over in Hancock, Mich., the

Kerredge Theatre was showing two horror films--"House of Living Death" and "Dracula." Advance advertising of the pictures said of them that they were "so creepy that bats would permente the atmosphore of this theatre." They did indeed. For many students

rying little bags, which might have contained popcorn, but didn't. Half-way through the performance, the audlence began shricking. A hundred bats began swooping around and dive-bombing.

Be not merely good; be good for something, : : --Thoreau.

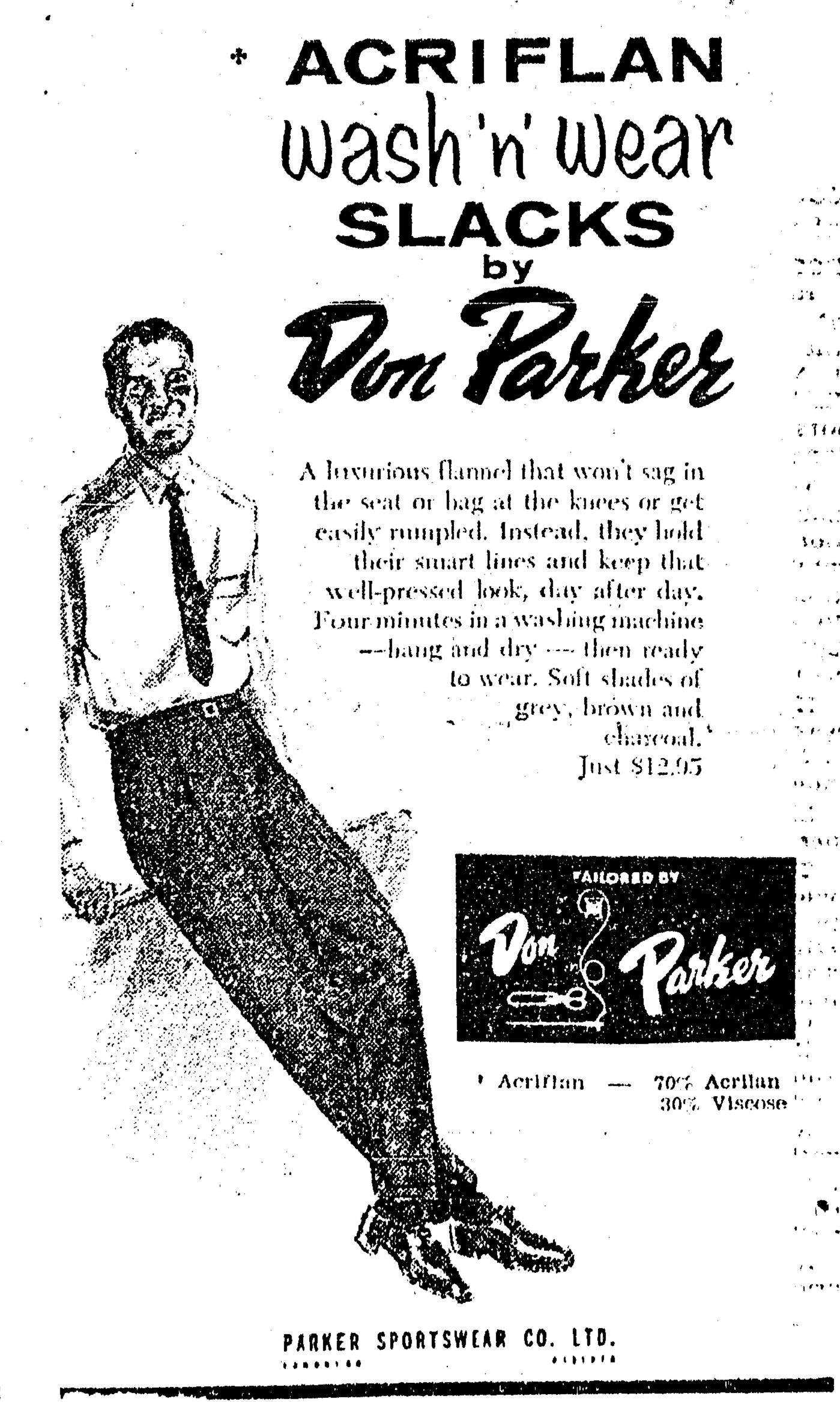
Almost every man enjoys WHITEOWL

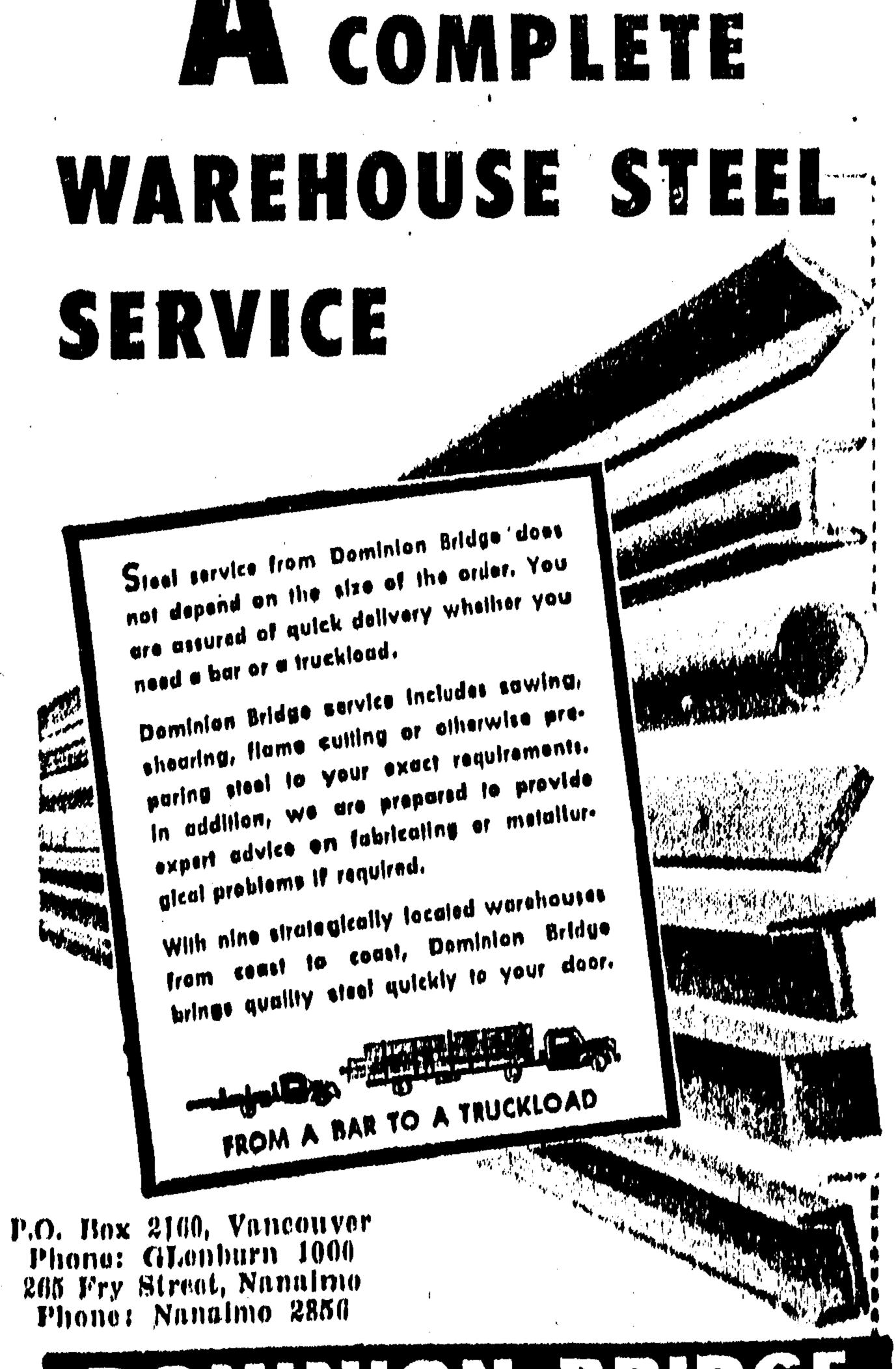


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COMPANY LIMITED WARLHOUSES AND OTHERS THROUGHOUT CANADA

The 506 assembly deputies are divided among "16 parties as varied—and changing—in policy ras the colors of the rainbow. Their difficulty fin making up their collective mind has led to vunending confusion.

Since the Second World War the average life of a cabinet has been a little over six . months.

The assembly now includes 143 Communists

and about 30 Poujadists who are in systematic opposition to anything the government proposes. Take out the Communists and Poujadists, and any prospective premier has a field of about 400 deputies—ranging from socialists to right-wing independents—in which to find a workable majority of about 328 supporters.

Inclusion of half a dozon different political parties in one cabinet has often led to timid action or inaction.

Why so many parties? It's all part of French tradition of having parties to represent various groups.

Some of the parties are separated only by small nuances of political outlook. Two of the big parties, the Socialists 07 deputies and MRP 75 are split by one explosive issue—the granting of state funds to church schools.

The multi-party system is encouraged by the proportional representation election system. A department county may be allotted five deputios. These five seats are then partitioned out according to the share of the vote each party gots. Almost never does one party got all the sonts from a department. Each important sex-

ment of political opinion gets something, There has been much agitation in recent years for a change in the proportional represontation system. But parliament never has been able to agree on any new system.

Opponents of change point out France has used no less than five different systems since 1870, but none produced governmental stability.