The Vancouver Sun, Owned and Operated by Vancouver People, Is a Newspaper Devoted to Progress and Democracy, Tolerance and Freedom of Thought

Resume Ship Service to Asia

Vancouver's fears for the restoration of the pre-war fleet of trans-Pacific luxury liners have been confirmed by W. M. Neal, chairman of Canadian Pacific Steamships.

His words yesterday to a Montreal luncheon audience would appear to give an official answer to the replacement question. Mr. Neal thinks that ocean-going airliners will do away with the need for superliners and that ships of moderate size will be adequate. He was speaking particularly about the Atlantic run but similar circumstances apply to our Eastern Ocean.

Much investigation must have preceded Mr. Neal's remarks. Three years ago, when The Sun asked about the future of the Empress boats, the best answer the CPR would give was that its experts were studying the situation so that it might be provided "with vessels best calculated to meet requirements." Since then, regular air service to Australia has been inaugurated and service to Tokyo and Shanghai is being undertaken soon by an American aviation company.

The point to be made to Mr. Neal is that he hasn't any ships—big, little or medium—in service now on the route from Vancouver to the Orient. And it is about time that he did. A Canadian trade mission is leaving Ottawa tomorrow for Japan to facilitate the revival of trade with that part of the world, Prime Minister King said yesterday.

Trade is expected to open in August, by authority of General MacArthur, and Canada is going to have a hard fight for its share. People who know what has been going on in Japan in recent months assert that American firms have already made all the arrangements to get in quickly on the ground floor.

Canada can't afford to let the CPR wait until trade is available in volume. By that time, it will be sewed up by competitors. Our share of the business will develop gradually and will require careful cultivation. That means a steamer service on regular schedule, such as the CPR furnished before the war, only on a smaller scale to start with. Canada and Vancouver have a right to look to the CPR to provide it now.

Gambling With Epidemics

Home precautions in the handling of food are urged as a protection against poliomyelitis by a Medical Health Officer who hasn't even got enough sanitation inspectors to maintain a decent standard of cleanliness in public eating places.

He is inconsistent, but it's not his fault. He tried to get five more inspectors on his staff this year but the appropriation was slashed to help balance the City Council's 1947 budget.

This was a gamble with the public's health. The proportions of the epidemic now threatening Vancouver suggest that the Council ought to reconsider. A deficit at the end of the year is better than the risk of disease.

Extra inspectors could begin by checking public washrooms. Toronto has launched a drive to clean up what its mayor describes as "deplorable" conditions in many of the city's 2100 cafes and restaurants. Dr. Stewart Murray, our own medical health officer, expressed enthusiastic approval when told of this and suggested Vancouver might well do likewise. With the spread of infantile paralysis, the city ought to be concerned with every factor aiding sanitation.

It is notorious that numbers of city restaurants have either no public washrooms or inadequate and dirty ones; others, it is true, are well maintained. Furthermore, as Dr. Murray points out, conditions can't always be blamed on cafe proprietors. The public themselves are often responsible for disgraceful untidiness in washrooms which begin the day neat and clean.

It is time to realize that this whole matter has an urgent relation to health and safety. It is no mere fad of the prim and the cranks.

Good Friends on Bad Roads

We gratefully acknowledge the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's sympathetic understanding of the problem of "Those British Columbia Roads." Its editorial under that title on Wednesday showed a spirit of kindly fair-mindedness which we commend to some of our home-grown knockers.

One in particular, a resident of North Vancouver, had written to the P-I to propose a tourist boycott of this province until "the politicians" stop neglecting the roads. In reply, the P-I quoted from a recent editorial in The Sun pointing out that some $25 millions worth of road contracts are already under way. In any case, said the P-I, Americans enjoy their visits to British Columbia, "roads or no roads," too much to think of a boycott.

It explained that B.C. is trying to improve its roads with a tax income necessarily small by comparison with more heavily populated states across the border, and without federal aid such as American states receive.

The P-I was struck, however, by the "milder and more practical suggestion" made by The Sun, and quoted our editorial proposing that tourists be exempted from toll charges. This makes us doubly sure that the gesture would be appreciated.

The Seattle paper's generous remarks convince us that British Columbia still retains a reservoir of goodwill among its neighbors. It would be a fine thing to keep it. Elimination of tolls on visitors would help to do that until such time as the tolls are abolished for everyone and our highway system is able to stand comparison with the best.

Settling Dispersal Accounts

We will be most astonished if Mr. Justice H. I. Bird allows anything like the $5 million reported to be sought by Japanese who think they've been short-changed by the Custodian of Alien Enemy Property. Judge Bird has been appointed as a commissioner under the Inquiries Act to sift the claims and, unless the Japanese show more reasonable restraint than some of their spokesmen, the job is apt to be a tedious nightmare.

There were upwards of 20,000 Japanese effected by the dispersal orders. The number of petty claims they could lodge, out of an exaggerated idea of the value of their household goods, is limitless. If the $5 million figure is to be taken seriously, they must intend to press for every possible nickel. It averages out at more than $200 apiece for every member of the former colonies. Other residents who recall the conditions under which most of the Japanese used to live will scarcely believe that their total belongings were worth so much.

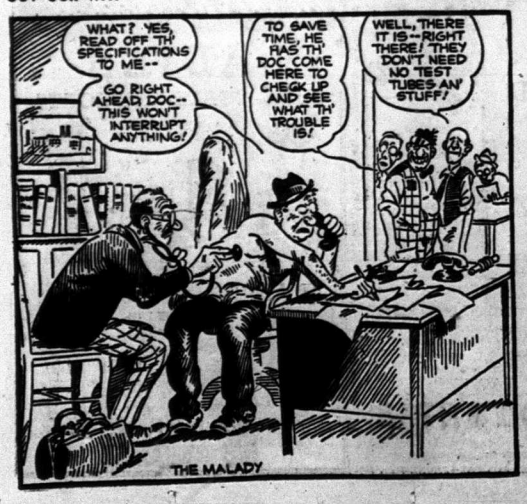
Even assuming that some of their farms were sold below assessed value, it is incredible that the difference between what they realized and what they should have got would approach $200 each.

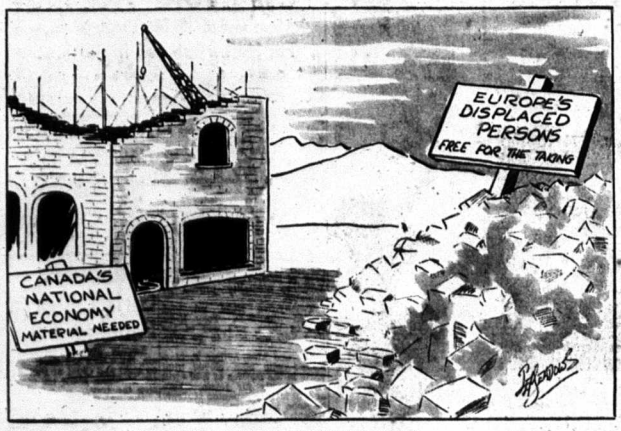
But whatever the difference was, if any, they most certainly are entitled to every penny that can be proven. They should not suffer through negligent disposal of their assets and Judge Bird will see to it that they don't.

He is an admirable choice for the inquiry. The only curious feature about the appointment, however, is that the Dominion Government should remove a member from the Supreme Court bench of this province for a lengthy non-judicial assignment immediately after deciding that the bench is undermanned. Legislation was passed at the last session of Parliament to add another judge to it, although he hasn't yet been named. Now one of the judges is being taken away even before reinforcements arrive.

Some of the people who are going to be loudest in their criticism of the city's business tax proposals were among the quietest when the City Council was striving to solve its financial problems by other means.

OUT OUR WAY By J. R. Williams





WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

ELMORE PHILPOTT Granny Says

IN ALL THE YEARS I have been writing for newspapers I never received a finer letter than this:

"Dear Mr. Philpott:

"Your column is my first stop when I receive my paper. I always enjoy your broad outlook on all subjects, particularly hell.

"However, I do not agree with your article, 'The Best Time to Live.' I do not agree it is a good time to raise babies.

"How can you or anyone say there will be no immediate wars, at least resembling the other two?

"Ever since the world began, wars have been periodical as soon as a fresh crop of gullible and fever-inspired young men reacted to a silver-tongued recruiting agent and a waving flag.

"I was 10 years old when the Boer war began. I saw two of my favorite uncles, six-foot-six, of a famous Highland regiment, called back to fight, never to return. They were my father's brothers.

"Then in 1914 I saw four of my brothers leave, and my father left with all the heavy labors of a hand-worked farm and incompetent help.

"They all came back. One to die three months after his return in 1920. One to drag on, from his return till now, in and out of hospitals from effects of gas. Another crippled and the fourth (only 18 at the time of enlistment and a brilliant student) compelled to accept a position below his great ambition, because he was no longer physically able to finish his course.

"Then came 1939. I had 10 children, five sons and five daughters. Four sons—three in Canadian university and one in high school (the oldest deaf in one ear and rejected) left almost at the beginning of the war. My husband and I slaved and did without, to carry on the Scottish tradition of education, and just when the light was beginning to show a little release, they left. They all came back, but the less said of that the better. Only one has been able to take up where he left off.

"Now I have eight grandchildren, six grandsons and two granddaughters. Eldest grandson is 12. A bright little student, who even this young has decided to be a druggist and reads voraciously everything connected with it.

"Can you tell me now that women should endure the agony of bringing children into the world, spending their youth and health to give them the best they can afford, training them to obey the laws of Moses and the prophets, that thou shalt not kill, to live decently, to love their neighbors as themselves, and then because of the bungling and secret errors and ambitions of a lot of worthless leaders and politicians see them made into physical and mental wrecks—left by a grateful (?) government to exist on a meagre pension?

"I can tell you, Mr. Philpott, I am sick to death of the cry of 'Save the World for Democracy,' 'Fight for King and Country,' 'Protect Your Home and Loved Ones,' etc.

"What democracy? Small wonder it is a joke in Europe when we deny Canadian-born men and women the right to vote because of their color and close our resorts to certain peoples. When I went to school democracy was defined as follows: 'Democracy is a government where all men are free and equal.' Canada and the U.S.A. must have the imagination of children to think we have it on this continent.

"No, Mr. Philpott! My advice to the young women of today would be never to have children!

"If they do, some day in the not-too-distant future, they too, will stand on a station platform and see a laden train pulling away—laden with their boys and thousands of others whose mothers will hear echoing in their minds, the old cry of mothers long dead and gone, 'Till the day breaks and shadows flee away.'"

A GRANDMOTHER.

I HAVE AN INCREASING FAITH that the world is near the threshhold of the better era—chiefly because people everywhere are thinking much as is this grandmother.

But, in a little while, such heart-sick parents will see that the way to end war is not to go on strike against having babies. Rather it is for fine, decent people to bring up children to be bringers-in of peoples' peace. The biggest lie of my lifetime was the one we fell for in 1914 "a war to end war."

You can't end war by war. But you can end war by organizing peace, under plain laws based on "goodness and mercy." No nations fought more or bloodier wars than the Scots and the English—but only until they set up a common parliament to make laws for both. The USA did that on a larger scale. Now comes the time for a world "parliament of man." We won't get real peace till we get it—and we will never again have a world war when we do.

Dionne Defends Arrangements for Polish Girls He Brought to Quebec

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—Our attention has been called to an article by Elmore Philpott in your paper of June 16, relative to the 100 Polish girls who came to Canada to work in this plant.

Regarding Mr. Philpott's statements:

(1) "100 Polish Virgins." Mr. Dionne did not select the girls; this was done by representatives of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees in displaced persons camps and they specified that the 100 girls be single, and some reporter in Frankfurt coined the phrase: "Dionne Flying Virgins."

(2) "Girls will live in convents." The girls do not live in a convent. They live in a modern dormitory, like any Y.W.C.A. with about 125 other girls who work in other plants located in St. George. The Polish girls pay the same board, which amounts to $5.50 to $6.50 per week, and have the same freedom of action, with the usual rules and observances which we would impose on our own daughters regarding time of meals, orderly conduct, and that they must be in their rooms not later than 11 p.m. They have freedom of action until that hour. All this is made possible by the good nuns' devotion to duty and humanity.

(3) "Girls will work for 21 cents an hour."

(4) "Indentured labor, bound for years to pay back the cost of their plane passage."

Please be advised that both the above statements are clearly contrary to the facts of the agreement which was filed in parliament and also recorded with the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, Royal Bank Bldg., Ottawa.

This agreement was drawn up by the IGCR and agreed to by Mr. Dionne, as many of these girls are orphans ranging in age from 17 to 20.

Mr. Dionne agreed to provide employment for two years.

Mr. Dionne agreed to be personally responsible for their welfare.

Mr. Dionne agreed to employ the girls under prevailing Quebec labor laws (similar to Ontario), regarding conditions of employment, hours, wages, etc., as follows: Not over 48 hours weekly, not less than 21 cents per hour. As a matter of fact, we pay all girls 25 cents per hour for the first four weeks, then 30 cents per hour, minimum; and from then on they are on piecework and when experienced, usually in four months, the girls can earn up to 50 to 60 cents per hour. We employ them 46 hours weekly and pay them for 48. We give them 7 days' holidays with pay, also sick and death benefit insurance. Mr. Dionne further agreed that he would pay them weekly in cash not less than 21 cents per hour and all sums earned in addition to this would be put into individual bank accounts for the girls and given into their possession at the end of two years.

It was further specified in the agreement that the transportation of all refugees was to be paid by the IGCR to the point of destination and the girls are not obligated to pay back their passage to anyone. Difference between plane and boat fare was to be absorbed by us. All of this information is a matter of recorded fact, and we are at a loss to understand the source of Mr. Philpott's information unless it was from the reported remarks in parliament by Mr. Coldwell, Mr. Gillis and Mrs. Strum, who are privileged as members to make statements even if contrary to the facts. However, we assume that it is not the policy of your influential newspaper to do likewise.

DIONNE SPINNING MILLS CO.,
Per James Adams.
St. George, Beauce County, P.Q.

The Writers' Digest

CALLS IT UNJUST: In reading a news article in The Sun of July 18, I noticed where an Englishman, his wife, and four children, had arrived in Vancouver and had a home to go to. They may well sing the praises of Canada, when they are able to move directly into a home, when Vancouver and Canadian veterans are living in unsuitable living quarters. For myself, I can with truth say I am a Canadian vet. But what do I receive when I get back? A two-room suite — bed-sitting room and kitchenette. At the beginning of August of this year there will be five persons living in these two rooms. I can only ask: Is this so-called justice? —G. B. Cayzlem, 1836 Adanac Street.

* * *

POLITICAL MORALITY: The statement Sunday evening by Harold Winch that "it is absolutely ethical to oppose and break the law" is entirely in keeping with CCF policy in this province. Not only does the statement show a fine-tuned sense of political irresponsibility, but it proves the CCF are still dupes for Labor Progressive propaganda. Labor can blame no one but themselves for Bill 39. Under LPP guidance, they have made a thorough mess of Labor's progress in British Columbia, all of which fits in nicely with LPP policy. Mr. Winch's statement is but one more weak straw in the unweatherred thatch of the CCF. —G. W. B.

* * *

PAGE MR. CARTER: Since the letter of a Mr. Thornton appeared in The Sun I have been scanning your readers' opinion column for Mr. C. R. Carter's reply. Surely that very able wielder of the pen has a reply! For there was magic in his pen that brought to my eyes familiar scenes that, like Mr. Carter, I still love—for I have walked behind a plough and turned over good old English earth, and even at 69 years have all my teeth and possibly my senses. Now, Mr. Carter, where's that pictorial pen of yours?—A Yeoman of England.

From The Sun's Files

One Year Ago

July 25, 1946 — Ottawa announced that 4000 single veterans of the Polish army that fought with the allies in Italy would come to Canada for farm work.

Twenty Years Ago

July 25, 1927 — The local Trades and Labor Council pledged financial support to Vancouver firemen if they decided to strike for higher wages and shorter duty hours. Secretary Percy Bengough announced.

Forty Years Ago

July 25, 1907 — The B. C. Anti-Tuberculosis Society bought the famous Tranquille Ranch on Kamloops Lake as a treatment centre. It was appealing for additional building funds from the public.

Fifty Years Ago

July 25, 1897 — Tramway service to Stanley Park along Pender Street got under way this Sunday and cars carried great crowds. A band concert in the park was the big attraction.

READERS VOICE THEIR OPINION

Veterans' Allowances

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—A terrible howl went across Canada at the miserable pension paid to our old age pensioners and justly so.

But does the general public know that thousands of war veterans of World War One are expected to live on a miserable allowance of $30.41 per month? What are the various soldiers' organizations doing about this? Every allowance man who belongs to any soldiers' organization should demand that that organization take the matter up at Ottawa immediately or withdraw his membership.

In accord with the high cost of living, the allowance should not be one cent under $50 per month. If veterans fought for the right to live now, the way they fought in World War One, they would get what they want, and get it quick.

JUST ANOTHER VICTIM.

Motorists, Read This

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—Can we not band ourselves together in some way to stop this growing toll of life being taken on our highways? Are there not men among us who will raise their voices to our law enforcement departments to stop this awful slaughter? I know my little girl need not have died. Some will say that I am hard, unkind to write this letter now—but I must. I must, not only for the one I lost but for the little ones who yet live along this fearful road.

That death was not an act of God—it was an act of man, and man is responsible. I know my little girl need not have died.

That child stood beside the highway before she ran across, the driver should have seen her then, a pair of racing feet, a head of curly hair, a moving object. The driver said he did not see the child. We cannot refute such a statement, but I say he should have seen her.

Our motorists are growing bolder by the hour. Can their "right of innocence until proven guilty" be any more sacred than the right of our little ones to live? They should be given to know that they may, yes will be, removed from our society should they malm or kill our little ones!

Will not our parents, brothers, sisters and every club and order, every clergyman and humble laboring man, yes, everyone among us send our petition to our attorney-general and demand that this be so? Eliminate the traffic menace from among our growing girls and boys.

Perhaps you do not realize the awful grief that is our lot. It's very real; it sears the very soul. I know you can not realize unless you too have had your petition signed on you. Yet in my sadness I plead with you, one and all, to stop this slaughter of our loved ones on the highways.

Our Saviour said that should anyone offend one of these little ones that it were better for him that a millstone be hanged about his neck and that he be cast into the sea. And we complacently allow our motorists to smash their cruel heads against their shiny grills! Shame on us—let us do something to stem this growing tide of death and save our girls and boys. They do not wish to die—I know my child need not have died.

Respectfully, prayerfully, for my little girl's sake,

HER DAD.

(As this poignant letter could refer to any one of many accidents, and has meaning for so many motorists, The Sun has suppressed names and references that would identify a particular tragedy.—Editor).

CBC and Despotism

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—In your editorial of July 17, you refer to the "despotic rule of the CBC."

Whatever the faults of the CBC, despotism is not one of them. The CBC is a publicly-owned corporation, responsible to our own elected representatives in Parliament.

We, the listeners, pay a license, and the CBC is our servant. Its faults cannot be compared with those of the private stations.

The private stations are in business to make profit. The owners are responsible to themselves only. There is no control over them, other than that invested in the CBC by a wise parliamentary committee. I am all for public ownership of our public utilities, and the more we have the better they will be. (MRS.) E. E. HALL.
4341 Thirty-fifth.

Signed articles and columns on this page are the opinions of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by The Vancouver Sun.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE - - with - - Major Hoople