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Coalition Break-up

THE break-up of British Columbia's coalition of Liberals and Progressive Conservatives will bring a feeling of relief to thousands who have long held the opinion that it has outlived an existence born of the dubious motive of keeping the C.C.F. party out of power in this province says a Prince George Citizen editorial.

As has been stated in this column several times a rupture in the Coalition regime was inevitable in view of the constant bickering between cabinet members of different party faiths, and even those of similar political viewpoints. The mud boiling to the surface of the political pot with the "firing" by Premier Byron Johnson of his Minister of Finance was even thicker at the bottom.

We can see nothing harmful in the collapse of the coalition. For too long now there has been an absence of a healthy competitive spirit in our public affairs. Amendments have been adopted without any discussion in the Legislature, acts have been put through with the public having only a hazy idea of their contents, as witness the forest management licence plan.

The 3 per cent sales tax was introduced to bolster revenue. It has succeeded, but in accomplishing this end has had a strong inflationary effect, adding as much as 7 per cent to the cost of small articles coming within its scope.

There is a strong body of opinion that the government is depending too much on the liquor traffic for revenue. Profits from this monopoly have swollen to appalling figures and lead many to believe that the government could add to its prestige and popularity by bringing in legislation that would promote rather than discourage moderation if not temperance in B.C.

With its early bungling, hospital insurance legislation has proved a costly item, with improper accounting still characterizing its career. Greatest criticism comes from the fact that insurance is not on a strict compulsory basis, and it is felt that it should be as mandatory for everyone to have paid-up insurance as it is for a car owner to have a licence. This might be accomplished by making it illegal for any employer to have on his pay-roll anyone not covered by hospital insurance. On reflection, employers might object strongly at again being forced to act as an agent of the government as in the case of the 3 per cent tax.

Despite these and other shortcomings, we have in many respects had good government in B.C. in recent years. It has spent more millions than any other government. It cannot be charged with being niggardly, as new highways, schools and social services will bear witness, and has made every effort to keep British Columbia in the forefront of western Canada's booming industrial expansion.

In this latter connection, some people, including members of the late Coalition government, have charged that cabinet members have lacked foresight in signing away the province's resources in order to attract new capital. This matter probably will be high on the list of election campaign topics.

We must now realize that coalition governments are never a long-run solution. Too often, to get agreement, they must water down the soup until it is tasteless.

It is good to see the foundation being laid for a strong political contest out of which will, it is to be hoped, some one group will emerge with an over-all majority to bring strong and vigorous government to our province.

Scripture Passage for Today

"My soul doth magnify the Lord."—St. Luke 2:46.

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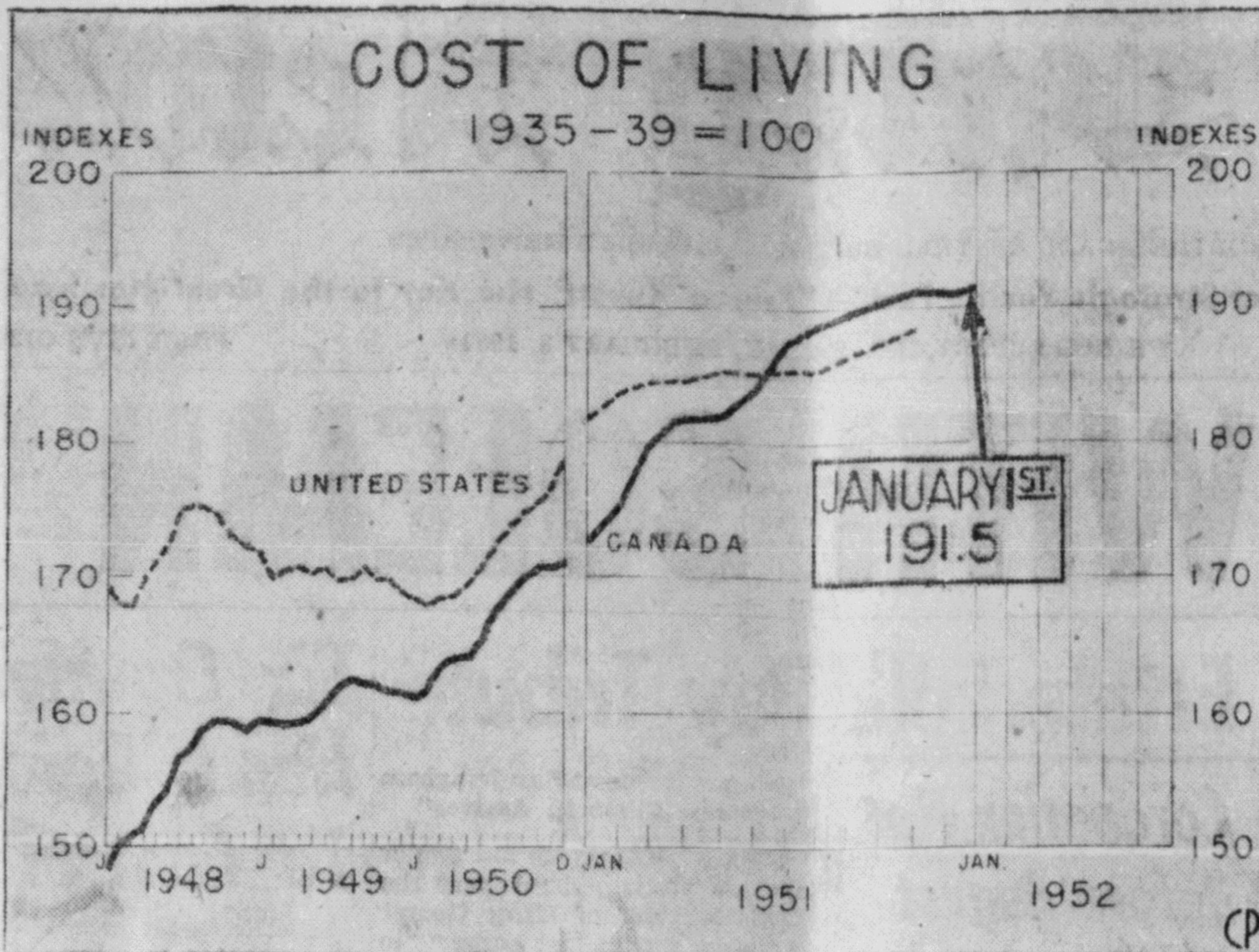
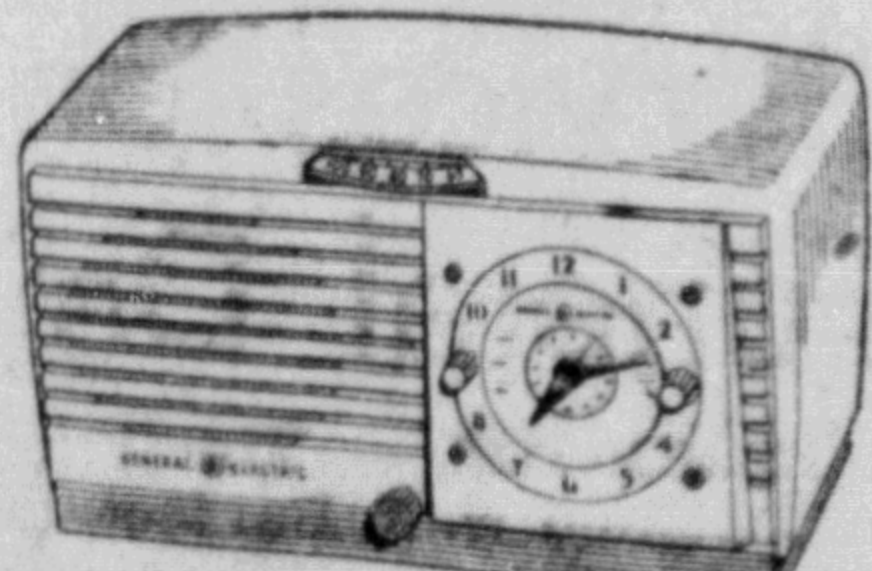
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INDEX AT NEW HIGH—The cost-of-living index climbed two-fifths of a point from 191.1 during December to a new high of 191.5 on Jan. 1, the Bureau of Statistics reported. The index is based on 1935-39 prices equalling 100. Slightly higher prices for meats, vegetables, dairy products, coal, home furnishings and health costs pushed the index up again. The dotted line shows the United States Consumers' Price Index. These indexes measure percentage changes in prices in each country, but should not be used to compare actual levels of prices between the two countries. (CP PHOTO)

Separate Schools May Become Issue in Next Provincial Election

By The Canadian Press

A dispute over use of public funds for church-operated private schools in British Columbia may become an issue in the coming provincial general elections. The dispute, which blazed up recently after lying dormant for several years, will likely be of paramount importance in constituencies which have a large proportion of Roman Catholic voters.

The problem was raised last month at an executive meeting of the B. C. Liberal party but was shelved for the time being. Members were asked to attempt to feel out sentiment in their ridings before action is taken.

At the centre of the dispute is the Roman Catholic Church. It maintains that the provincial government should recognize Catholic schools and contribute to their construction and operation.

Other religious groups which operate private schools have not entered the dispute.

To start from the beginning: British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871 and, as in all the other provinces, education came under provincial jurisdiction. The government decided to set up a tax-supported public school system.

The government contended then—and still does—that public schools are open to children of all religious faiths; that if parents want to send their children to private schools, no matter of what denomination, they must pay for this directly rather than through a share of public taxation.

Roman Catholics at that time formed a small minority of British Columbia's population. Today they are about 20 per cent.

Roman Catholics and adherents of other religious groups have built their own schools with money raised in their upkeep.

Textbooks are provided free to private as well as to public school students and Victoria and Vancouver pay for some medical and dental care for Roman Catholic pupils.

FINANCING DIFFICULT

Through the years, Roman Catholics have found it more and more difficult to find money to build and maintain schools. They say their standard of secular education cannot be as high as that of public schools unless they get help from the provincial education department. They cannot pay salaries asked by competent teachers; playgrounds and school equipment fall short of the public school standard.

If Roman Catholics send their children to parochial schools they must meet the cost of this and also pay the school taxes all British Columbians pay to cover public school education. This is what Roman Catholics in B.C. mean by "double taxes" for schooling.

Archbishop William M. Duke of Vancouver said in a recent sermon: "The Roman Catholic Church is unwilling to send their children to the public schools because in these schools the most important subject in the eyes of God and in the eyes of all true Christian parents is omitted: namely, the teaching and practice of the religion of Christ."

To this, the government says, in effect: "Well and good. We have no quarrel with that. You may build and operate your own

(Continued on page 6)

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Try It If You Dare

AROUND our house they have a phrase that is guaranteed to send the young fry, and their mother, into kinks of laughter:

"Another one of dad's inventions."

All my life I have been trying to convince these skeptics and cynics that I am an unpaid Edison, producing wonderful inventions from somewhere or other—and they just haw haw.

They won't believe me that I thought of the idea of the jet aircraft before Whittall came out with it in England, and so on all down the line.

One day I actually drew them a picture of one of my most priceless brain products. It was an ordinary boy's bike with a simple jet engine in what is now the blank space inside the frame. Again they laughed and even listed a score or more objections to such a device—mostly childish ones such as:

"What happens to the guy behind who gets the blast?"

Then imagine my chagrin over in France last year when I came on a picture of some Frenchman actually riding MY invention—a jet bike. I cut his picture out of the paper and was bringing it home to show the family. But somehow it got lost and now they won't even believe me when I say a Frenchman actually made it and rode it.

Proposed division of Canadian servicemen's pay between man and wife is said to be raising merry Mary and now comes the report that the planned change will be cancelled—or at least suspended so that further consideration can be given. It's quite an idea, and incidentally opens up chances for an argument, some liable to be sharp.

The wife could say, for example, that the army provides food and clothing for its members. But does the State do that for the soldier's partner at home?

Another moose hit by a freight train! Too bad! Chief of the deer family and one of Canada's finest game animals, it should have been shot, which would appear to have been the natural way. A track, however, is easier to follow and offers the line of least resistance.

Indignation mass meetings are being held in Newark, New Jersey, where two air crash disasters have already occurred. Twenty-one lives were lost in the latest, as well as part of a residential block destroyed by fire. Small wonder a state of nervousness is developing. Who would wish to rebuild in that sort of city?

It seems to cut the ground from under the argument that we hear so often in the U.S.A. these days that there can be no individual initiative under public enterprise.

ANOTHER frequent propaganda trick of these times is to belabor and abuse civil servants as "bureaucrats," "chair warmers," lazy loafers and so on. Of course it is not true. Man for man and gal for gal there are probably no more loafers on the public payroll than on private jobs. My observation is that

ray...

Reflects and
Reminisces.

Doukhobors in Grand Forks conducted the choral service in First United Church one Sunday evening recently. The singing in the Russian language, is said to have been excellent and the occasion throughout impressive. As a newspaper item, concerning the Doukhobors, it is refreshing.

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the further away the real boss is from the real job, the more inefficient the operation.

Recently the Financial Post carried an editorial item advising business firms to snap up the employees of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, which is being "demobilized." The Post lauded these men to the skies—yet how often in these same columns have we read of inefficiency of bureaucracy, and so forth?

THE FIERCE controversy now raging over radio station CBU's new wave length has almost dragged me in. On Sunday morning as usual I tuned in to KIRO at 9:30 to listen to Howard K. Smith, who is, for my money, the only honest, unbiased commentator still left on the U.S. radio networks.

I got KIRO alright and heard Howard, from London, but pretty badly mixed in with CBU music. Well, I guess I'll just have to invest in an aerial—because I'm not going to miss one man who reminds us that the whole U.S.A. has not gone nuts.

CONSISTENT WINNERS

ROSETOWN, Sask. (CP)—Bidding and making a little slam at bridge isn't unusual. But Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cracknell bid and made five little slams in a row at a bridge tournament here.

U.N.'s New Security Council Members



Three newly elected members of the Security Council of the United Nations—Chile, Greece and Pakistan—took the oath of office on Jan. 17, 1952, when the Council reconvened in Paris for 1952. Here they are shown after their first meeting. From left to right: Hernan Santa Cruz of Chile, Ahmed S. Rikhan of Pakistan, and Kyrillos of Greece. They replace Ecuador, India and Portugal.

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