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**EDITORIAL.** 15 September 1951. Vol 2 Issue 17.

Every now and again somebody wanders into the office, pushes the spaniel out of the armchair, knocks the ashtray on the floor, apologizes profusely, and then tells us he doesn't care for the way the Spotlight is written. It's too matey, he says: - not the sort of thing you'd expect from Willie Shakespeare at all. Of course he's quite right, but a chap takes a load according to his strength. For instance the great Chinston Wurchill might describe our highways like this, "These few roads which cost so much and are so marred with holes bring sweat, mud, and swears. Seldom have so many bumped so often on so few!" but if your editor made cracks like that he'd probably find it much safer to go and live in Vancouver!

On 3rd September, Evan Jones, the Deputy Minister of Public Works came to a dinner held by the Council of the Chamber of Commerce. Wilbur Dawson was President and Gavin Mouat introduced Evan Jones. Gavin Mouat is President of the Transportation Committee. Evan Jones gave the overall picture from the point of view of the Department. There are twenty-two thousand miles of road in the Province for a population of 1,200,000 approximately. And as in the States the main highways are looked after by the Federal Government, British Columbia is actually keeping up more miles of road than Washington, Oregon, and California put together. Except for the Trans-Canada Highway, and a strip of road from the border to Radium Hot Springs built 1935 to 1942, the Province has received no aid from the Dominion Government. He spoke of the problems of the Trans-Canada highway, and touched on the difficulties of snow removal (annual cost \$1,250,000) and surfacing. In round figures, the gas tax brought in 11.5 million, the motor tax 6.8 and of this the municipalities who look after the side roads themselves get 2 million. So the total from this tax is 16 million while 21 million is spent on roads, annually. He talked of how heavy loads were breaking up roads even in the States, of dust control, of road signs. Then the people present, about 40, were free to ask questions, and from the questions asked by Gavin Mouat, O.L.Spencer, T.F.Speed, Cyril Wagg, J.B.Acland, D.F. Winteringham, Don Fraser, Colin Mouat, E.Hardy, Jack Fraser, L.J.McDonnell, L.F.Nicholson and others, a picture of island opinion came out which seemed to your editor to be like this: While the Road Gang is on the Fulford new strip, they clearly can't be doing maintenance work at the same time; and maintenance is very important for the roads are full of holes and the ditches are filling in, there is much dust. Would it be possible to get a contractor to do the new strip so as to leave the Gang free for maintenance work? Was there enough money for maintenance work? Could it be simplified by getting gravel from nearer the place of work? Could the services of volunteers who had offered their services free be used? What about more machinery, would that cut the cost? Could the grader be used in the spring? What about cheap dust control? and so on.

Evan Jones answered the questions as best he could, and the meeting was most friendly, but your editor could not help being struck by the different ways in which "briefing" is done by the various services. In some concerns, a senior man visiting is advised by the people on the spot of local problems and is also supported by them at the meeting; so that the senior man has all the details at his finger tips. The head of a Service cannot be expected to know all the ins and outs of every spot under his control. But in this

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case Evan Jones was alone. There is no secret in how much money the Nanaimo-Islands district is allowed for road maintenance; it is printed in a book and your editor has seen it: with a limited amount of men, money and machinery only a limited amount of work can be done, each strip of road is different and presents its own particular problem -- St Mary Lake & Beaver Point for example; and your editor felt that had the difficulties been discussed at the district instead of the Provincial level, he would have understood them better.

The Public Works would like good roads, and so would we. The road from Fulford to Vesuvius is to be a main road. The difficulty may be at a political level. It may be, as Gavin Mouat suggested, that it would be cheaper to pay more gas tax and less repair bills. Or it may be on an administrative basis. Perhaps the combination of an urban district with a country district which does not feed it is not a happy one. Or the problem may be local. Or it may be a combination of these and others.

Evan Jones, whose kindness in coming here was much appreciated, is in a position to unravel some of this, and we hope that he will be able to do something to prevent a recurrence of the terrible state of the roads we had last winter.

Des Crofton thanked Evan Jones for his speech. We forgot to mention that before the speeches Fred Wheldon gave a humorous broadcast -- at a moment's notice which was pretty good work!

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

12 Sept. Political meetings are not your editor's cup of tea, and the thought that he has got to attend all of them if he possibly can so as to give fair reporting frankly gives him a pain in the neck. However....

Mrs Turner presented Mrs Pearkes with a corsege. There were over 50 people present. Bob Harvey traced the history of the riding. From 1902 to 1938 this was a North Saanich-Islands riding when it was changed by the redistribution committee of the Pattello Government to the present riding. This was a gerrymander.

Wing Commander Holmes said that the trend of the present government was towards totalitarianism. The cost of living problem should be met by a slow rolling back of both wages and prices. By establishing a means test for family allowances and old age pensions money could be saved which could be

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Major General Pearkes, V.C., M.P. said that he had come more to get the reactions of the people he represented so that he would know what they wanted him to do. He attacked the Government policy in regard to the high cost of living, budgeting for a surplus, the regulations controlling veterans' pensions. He asked for opinions on the proposed St Lawrence Waterway, Freight rates, the ratification of the Japanese Treaty which leaves out a fishing clause, on a policy of working more closely with the Commonwealth. He said he enjoyed the trip up from Fulford in spite of the road. Des Crofton made a speech of thanks.  
BANK OF MONTREAL, GANGES.

Wilbur Dawson is being transferred to White Rock, and Mr Chalk -- there are two brothers and we don't know yet which one it is -- is taking his place.  
LOGGING.

Of course the great news of this time is that the woods are open again. Somechaps have been having a pretty tough time whilst the woods have been closed, and it's not the fellows who work in the woods only either. For when one part of an industry gets gummed up, not only is every part of the industry affected, but also anybody who in any way is connected with anyone who in any way is associated with that industry. And after that sentence your editor will take an aspirin! Let's hope we have rain.

A FISH YARN.

A correspondent writes, "Sandy Lett & Peter Cartwright went fishing one evening recently. The first hour on the briny drew a blank. Just as the sun was setting the fish commenced to bite - and how! In less than half an hour they had a catch of 13 good sized grilse between them. Then P.C. got something big on his line. He played it, drawing it

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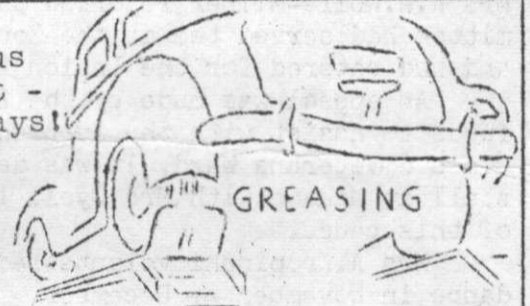
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ever closer to the boat. Just as he was about to pull it into the boat, Sir Salmon (for it was a salmon, I saw it!) broke away, taking the hook. The air was slightly blue, but not for long, as S.A. suddenly got something big on his line. He played it, brought it to the boat and landed it. A salmon!!! But when he went to remove the hook, P.C.'s hook was also in Sir Salmon's mouth! So they tossed for it. The Cartwrights ate grilse." BUSINESS NEWS. Note in the advertising sections that both the White Elephant & the Ganges Barber Shop will be closed for a short time in the near future. The Spotlight is going on a cash basis beginning next issue.

L.L.A.

11 Sept. Harbour House. Mrs C. Mouat is President and 23 members were present. Mrs R.H. Testar joined the branch. Numerous letters of thanks were read from hospitalized veterans. Mrs Lowe reported sending 5 parcels of clothing overseas during July & August and asked that a letter of thanks be written to Mr & Mrs Z. Kropinski for their generous donations. Mrs L. Parham reported sending gifts to three new arrivals. An urgent appeal was made to members to turn in woollen goods and materials to Mrs Catto who is collecting such things in order to have them made up into blankets for the Christmas parcels. The Hospital and Welfare Committee reports were read.

Mrs Acland gave a report on the Zone Council meeting of June 10. She signified her willingness to act as a delegate together with Mrs Springford to the Zone Council meeting at Duncan Sept. 21.

Mrs A.W. Wolfe-Milner reported that the Tea Committee had served tea at the Zone Council meeting and had catered for the Legion Labour Day dance.

An appeal was made by the Zone Council for funds to assist with the furnishing of a room in Class 6 Veterans Ward. It was decided to hold a stall at Mouats with Mrs Dyell in charge in aid of this cause.

Mrs A. Kropinski volunteered to organize a dance in November or December.

All future meetings of the L.L.A. will be held in the Board Room of the Mahon Hall instead of in Harbour House.

JOHN ROGERS who sailed for England on the 2nd and was due to arrive on 13th is going to travel to Stratford on Avon. He came to Salt Spring 60 years ago. He is 80 years old.

SATURDAY Mrs H.B. Corey has left for the mainland and will be visiting numerous relatives & friends

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"Sma' Fish are better than nane" say the Scots with their customary common sense. It's the same with deposits in your Bank of Montreal Savings Account, says Wilbur Dawson. You can start such an account with as little as a dollar, but keep on saving regularly and you'll be surprised what a fine showing your "sma fish" will make.

MAYNE. The Princess Mary has not been able to berth at Mayne owing to the bad state of the Wharf.

SALT SPRING. There were two dances of note held recently: one by the Legion in the Mahon Hall, which raised \$50 with George Heinekey as M.C. & Testar's orchestra; and the other at Fulford for the fishing Derby with Jack Fraser as M.C. & Anderson's orchestra. The latter show had a shingled fishshcp in the hall which was very well made. In the fishing Derby itself Billy Sampson got the top fish -- a 29½lb spring, & John Bennett won the radiophonograph.

Miles Acheson is resigning his post as Secretary-Treasurer of the Islands Farmers Institute. The winner of the Watkins Bean guessing Competition at the Fall Fair was D.H.Ruckles with 411; there were actually 407 in the jar.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a mixed dinner Friday 28th at 7 pm at Harbour House to say goodbye to their President Mr Dawson and to Mrs Dawson. As the number of seats available is limited, will those who want to come (non-members also welcome) please phone in their reservations to Harbour House as soon as possible? Dinner \$1.75 including tips.

BEFORE THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE: Robert Findley was committed to a higher court on a charge of refusing to deliver logs; John Lumley was committed to a higher court on an assault charge; R.P.Nickerson was fined \$10 and costs for theft of cordwood; John Scoones was fined \$25 and costs for dragging logs on the highway.

RCMP NEWS. Constable Meyer is transferred to Alberni and Constable Lockwood is on holiday.

THIS IS A KOREA STORY. A sentry was standing guard in the darkness of the night at a forward position. He heard someone shuffling towards his post and as the silhouette of the man became visible he shouted to him to halt and gave the challenge for the password. There was a long pause. The sentry cocked his rifle and stepped forward. As he did so a drawling voice in unmistakable accents came from the soldier facing him, "Man Ah doan know the password, but did you ever see a coloured chinaman?" (With acknowledgements to THE CANADIAN BRIGADER, Korea).

V.KELLERT, the well known violinist, and his accompanist, Mrs Gilson, are staying in cottages on Miss B.Hamilton's place.

CLASSIFIED ADS. Three lines (count 15 words) or part of three lines 65 cents.

GANGES BARBER SHOP will be closed from 17th to 22nd September.

SCOTT-ATWATER outboard 3½ hp, Use very little, in good running order \$100. Phone 51B Norman Wilson.

SALTSPRING SCHOOL BOARD. Woodwork and dressmaking night classes will re-open October 4th. Registration fee \$5.00 to be paid to T. Fowler, Secretary, Ganges on or before September 27th

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