

Liquor-by-Drink Molasses - Slow in British Columbia

VANCOUVER, B. C. — Liquor-by-the-drink was approved by British Columbia voters last October, but parched natives and visitors still can't slake their thirst that way six months later.

Conversion to that type of public quaffing has been tortoise-slow, and has touched off more wrangles than a back-alley tomato convention.

Efforts are reported being made to license at least a few of the hard liquor bistros before summer to serve as a tourist lure — but nothing along this line is certain thus far.

As of Saturday, the situation stood somewhat like this:

No licenses have been issued by the British Columbia Liquor Commission for any of the four types of public drinking places provided under the revised British Columbia Liquor Act. However, pubs, or beer parlors, which are included in the four types, have been operating for years and renewal of their licenses is considered a formality.

Two Votes Held
Only two plebiscites have been held under the local option provision by which licensing districts can vote "wet," "dry," or "half and half."

Trail approved licensing of all four types of outlets March 28. Creston voted down liquor-by-the-drink, but beer parlors were permitted to remain. Victoria will vote on the question April 28. Plebiscites are held when at least 35 per cent of the electorate signs petitions asking such a vote.

Unofficial reports from Victoria indicate that four Vancouver hotels will be licensed to serve liquor-by-the-drink this month. The liquor commission has neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

Tempers have flared frequently over liquor-by-the-drink developments since last fall's election.

Rules Laid Down
Cabaret owners and restaurant operators in Vancouver let out cries of anguish this week when Don McGugan, a British Columbia liquor commissioner, laid down the proposed "ground rules" governing their liquor operations.

Restaurant men were told they will be allowed to sell only beer and wine, but no hard liquor. Cabaret proprietors got the word they will be allowed to sell hard liquor only from 9 p. m. to 1 a. m.

Both groups protested vigorously and claimed discrimination. The cabaret men, particularly, said they would be at the disadvantage of private clubs which open at 10 a. m. and have no restrictions on liquor sales.

The Victoria reports that four Vancouver hotels will be licensed elicited the retort from Vancouver Mayor Fred Hume that "scarcely more than four hotels here are worthy of licenses."

No Further Licenses
There were unconfirmed reports, too, that no licenses will be issued to new hotels or drinking places. Business leaders commented such a policy would discourage investment money from being channeled into new hotel construction.

The October election provided these four types of drinking spots:

- 1. Public houses, or beer parlors, serving beer, ale, stout, wine, etc.
- 2. Dining rooms, serving malt beverages and wine.
- 3. Drinking lounges, serving both hard liquor and beer or wine, with meals.
- 4. Lounges, or cocktail bars, serving all types of drinks without meals.

Liquor Imports
Attention to liquor developments in the province from south of the border also resulted in a minor furor in recent weeks over regulations on bringing liquor into British Columbia from the states.

A Seattle newspaper article pointed out that under the law Canadian customs officials could seize a motorist's car and keep it if any liquor was found that did not bear the British Columbia provincial stamp, or seal.

The alarm this created quickly subsided when British Columbia officials called attention to the fact this provision of the basic provincial liquor act has been in the books for more than 30 years — and no ordinary motorist's car has been impounded. This feature of the law, they said, is aimed at bootleggers. Both British Columbia and Washington allow, by common

Hearing Loss May Shorten Life Span

NEW YORK (INS)—A progressive hearing loss may have a serious effect on the central nervous system and, in some instances, may even contribute to severe illness and a shortened span of life, according to a well-known New York City ear doctor.

Dr. Edmund Prince Fowler, a consultant to the American Hearing Aid Association, believes that continuing nervous stresses and frustrations are frequently important factors in certain types of chronic deafness.

Dr. Fowler pointed out that straining to catch conversations keeps the person with defective hearing in a constant state of tension which, in some cases, leads to further nervous exhaustion and irritability.

He added this also may hold true for those who converse with the hard of hearing—friends, relatives and business acquaintances.

Coal production in Great Britain declined about 1 1/2 million tons in 1953 to 233,518,000 tons.

Morse Seeks Power Dams, Flood Control

WASHINGTON (INS)—Sen. Morse (Ind-Ore) and senators from Washington and Montana Monday asked Congress for an additional 25 million dollars for flood control and power projects in the Columbia River basin.

This would include 16 million for The Dalles project in Oregon, three million for Chief Joseph Dam in Washington, 3 1/2 million to start Ice Harbor dam in Washington, and \$700,000 to start John Day dam in Oregon and Washington.

Morse introduced several measures to accomplish this, together with Sens. Magnuson (D-Wash.), Jackson (D-Wash.), Murray (D-Mont.) and Mansfield (D-Mont.). "We wish to call attention to the fact that the President's budget

would require a year's delay in the schedule of The Dalles and Chief Joseph dams," Morse said. He said President Eisenhower's budget and bills passed by the House make no provision for new multi-purpose dams in the Pacific Northwest.

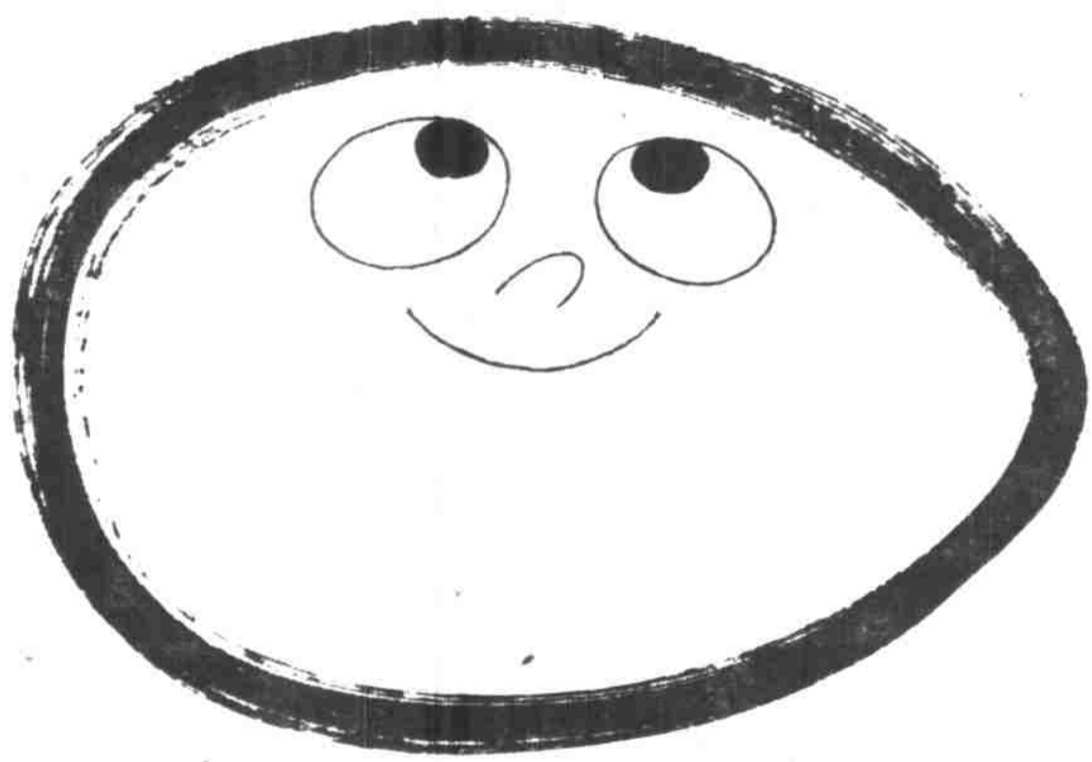
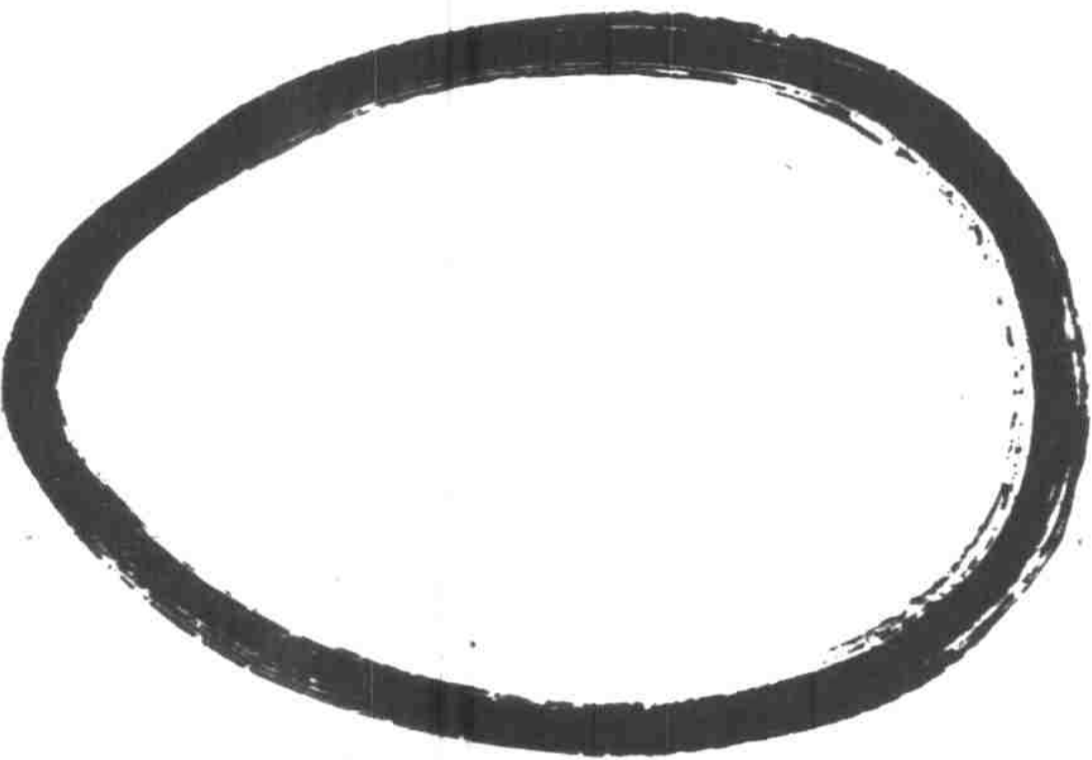
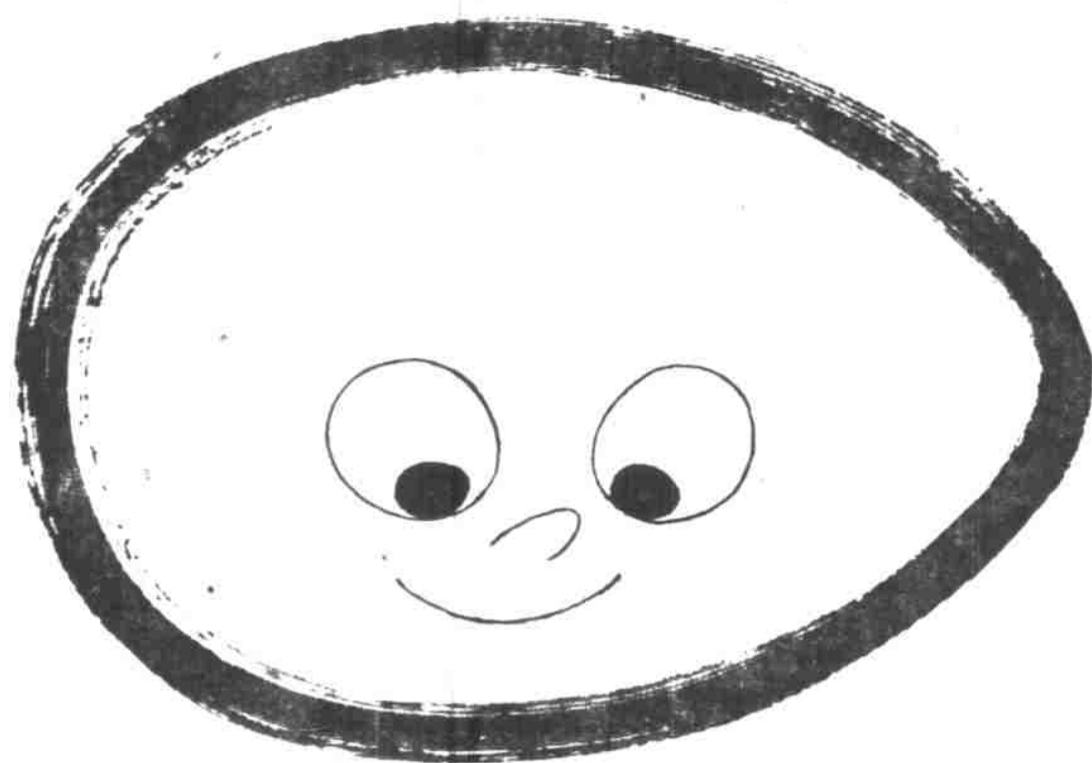
In introducing the measures, Morse criticized the Seattle Chamber of Commerce for what he said was its "proposing" that federal dams in the Northwest be sold. Such a proposal was made, he said, in the publication, "Seattle Business."

Morse said selling the federal projects would be "following the line" of President Eisenhower and Secretary of the Interior McKay. He said the administration has

been "stalling" in the approval of new river projects "going slowly" in the development of resources so sorely needed in the hope of discouraging advocates who believe the resources should be developed for the people and not for the benefit of private monopolies.

The public power proponents, he declared, "are going to fight it out on a political line in 1955 and 1956."

METERED RIDE
LOS ANGELES (INS)—A Los Angeles ambulance company has installed 22 Rockwell-Ohmer taximeters in its vehicles to solve problems of what to charge patients for their rides to and from the hospital.



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