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PART OF A CROWD of nearly 1,000 persons who watched fifth major fire in Prince Rupert this winter is shown above at corner of Third Avenue West and Sixth Street. Fire caused between $75,000 and $100,000 in damage to Exchange block and building adjacent. Fire started about 2:45 p.m. and was not brought under control until 8 p.m. —Photo by J. R. Wrathall.

PHOTO ABOVE shows rear of Exchange block and adjacent building which suffered in yesterday's fire, fifth big blaze this winter. Firemen are shown trying to stop spread of fire from Exchange Block which housed about 30 persons, 12 of them children. Damage to apartments and stores is set at between $75,000 and $100,000. —Staff photo by Dick Ayres.

30 left homeless as fire destroys Exchange block

$75,000 damage in fifth blaze

At least 30 persons were left homeless yesterday afternoon by a fire that caused between $75,000 and $100,000 damage to the Exchange block and a two-storey adjoining structure on the corner of Third Avenue West and Sixth Street.

The fire which broke out at 2:45 p.m. and was brought under control about 5 hours later, was the fifth major blaze in Prince Rupert this winter.

A young Chinese, Pop Lum, is reported in good condition in hospital after he jumped from a second-storey window to the ground about 20 feet below. Extent of his injuries will not be learned until after he has been X-rayed.

Two auxiliary firemen, Louis Nagy and Gordon Finlayson, were treated at hospital for cuts to hands from broken glass. They have both been released.

A total of 30 regular city firemen and auxiliary fire fighters fought the stubborn blaze as some 1,000 people crowded the streets to look on.

Jung Jan Bow and other Chinese associates have estimated damage to their building —the Exchange block at $32,000.

Chief Earl Becker said that the cause of the fire is not yet known but it is believed to have started in the centre of the Exchange building.

Damage to the two-storey building immediately next door which is owned by R. T. Collart has not yet been determined.

Chief Becker said most of the damage to Collart's building was done by smoke and water.

Underneath the five apartments in the Exchange block, which housed 13 adults and 12 children, were the Singer Sewing Machine Company, Mike's Second Hand Store, A and B Steambaths, and 32 Taxi.

Occupying the building next door was Empire Barber Shop, a shoe shine stand, a fire sale being conducted by Gordon and Anderson, hardware and furniture store burned out earlier this winter, and an apartment upstairs occupied by A. B. Tait.

Mr. Tait has etimated damage to his barber shop and apartment at $5,000.

Chief Becker said the Exchange block is a total loss and the roof of the building is completely caved in.

The taxi stand was also completely gutted and damage to the second hand store has been estimated at $20,000.

Singer Sewing Machine Company were able to save a good portion of their machines and fixtures but damage also has not been determined.

City firemen had to use all three trucks and most of the hoses.

(Continued on Page 5)
See — 30 LEFT

JUNG JAN BOW, one of the owners of the Exchange Block which was destroyed in yesterday's five-hour fire is shown shortly after he escaped from smoke-filled building. Mr. Jung was having an afternoon nap when fire broke out about 2:45 p.m. and he had only time to grab dressing gown and escape. More than 25 other persons, 12 of them children were evacuated from the apartments above Singer Sewing Machine, 32 Taxi, Mike's Second Hand store. —Staff photo by Charles E. Giordano.

Uproar on Arrow decision

TORONTO (CP)— Demand grew today for a decisive program to salvage a major segment of the Canadian aircraft industry and thousands of highly-skilled technicians who are out of work.

The pressure—some political, some industrial, some private and all vocal—was aimed at Premier Frost's Ontario government whose cancellation of the Arrow jet fighter program started the uproar.

Mr. Frost has pledged to enlist "the best brains" in the search for a solution.

The Ottawa action led to the dismissal of nearly 14,000 employees at Avro Aircraft and Orenda Engines Limited, subsidiaries of A. V. Roe Canada Limited. It reduced Avro from its position as one of Canada's biggest industrial employers to the status of a neighborhood bank.

TWELVE RETURN

Avro said 12 of its 4,000 engineers were asked to work today along with a small maintenance and security staff.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced the decision to ditch the supersonic Arrow Friday and said Canada is switching to Bomarc guided missiles, manufactured in the United States, for defence purposes.

The CCF and the Liberals the official opposition, planned attacks in the Ontario legislature today.

An Avro spokesman said Sunday: "Already some of our top men have pulled out and many others are making plans to do so." U.S. aircraft companies have been placing help-wanted ads for technicians in Toronto newspapers for some time.

Crawford Gordon, president of A. V. Roe, asked what would happen to the Batwing aircraft, said Sunday the government owned them and "they can come and fly them away."

Prince Rupert has now gone 39 days without a fatal traffic accident.

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Youngsters' rod & gun club suggested by city magistrate

Formation of a junior fish and game club, run by youngsters between seven and 17 years of age was suggested by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite when he addressed the Prince Rupert Rod and Gun club at its annual game dinner and dance Saturday night.

He praised the Rod and Gun club for its efforts in conserving the wild life and scenery of the area, but suggested they might be interested in helping to form a comparable club for the youngsters.

It has been tried with success at Kimberley, he said, and there some 70 boys are now active supporters of conservation.

"In a little more than a year they have formed an organization which will have an effect on the lives of youngsters for many years to come. It is an organization of lads who are eager, determined and raring to go," said Mr. Applewhaite.

One of the East Kootenay boys' first undertakings was the signposting of lakes and parks; on their own initiative they made more than 100 signs and printed 500 booklets of information and instructions about the area.

Mr. Applewhaite made three suggestions for the formations of such a club: that the idea should be imparted to a small group of youngsters and left to spread; distribution application forms; and—most important—that the boys be allowed to elect their own officers and run their own show under expert guidance.

"But," he added, "to be a failure, let them think they are being handed something on a plate."

There was applause when Mr Applewhaite, commenting on Sunday's trap shoot between and district clubs, said: "Isn't it better, much better, that the residents of two different countries should be shooting against each other at a trap meet rather than out of trenches or aeroplanes?"

Mayor P. J. Lester extended the city's greetings to the club members and to guests and visitors.

He announced that at tonight's council meeting he will recommend formation of a recreation commission to coordinate and help all recreational activities.

President J. H. Jefferies also welcomed the guests and expressed special thanks to the club members who provided so much of the food. This included a 75-pound spring salmon which was eaten at midnight.

At the banquet, the guests consumed moose, shrimps, salmon, vegetables, pie, salad and punch.

J. F. Williams was emcee for the night.

Guests included visitors from Kitchikan and Terrace. H. Knight, vice-president of the Kitchikan club, brought greetings, as did R. Jefferson, Terrace.

Dancing followed to the music of the Hartley Bay Five.

Silver Dart replica turns over in landing

BADDECK, N.S. (CP)—The Silver Dart, replica of the first powered aircraft in the British Commonwealth, flipped over in landing today one minute after it soared aloft in re-enacting the original flight 50 years ago. The pilot, Wing Cmdr. Paul Hartman, walked away unhurt.

Hon. J. A. D. McCurdy, who piloted the original Dart, watched as the plane tipped over on her port wing.

Wing Cmdr. Hartman said he was not prepared to land when the big wind gust slowed him down.

"I am very disappointed," he said.

Mr. McCurdy, 79, arrived here from his Montreal home Saturday in time to watch the final test flight of the Silver Dart replica built by the RCAF. The original was wrecked in a crash a few months after the 1909 flight.

Seventeen members of the air industries and transport association arrived in Sydney by chartered plane Sunday. They travelled the 50 miles here by bus early today.

Among the group, which represents all branches of Canadian aviation, was Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, vice-chairman of the board of directors of A. V. Roe (Canada) Limited.

Two admit mischief charges

One city man was handed a suspended sentence in city police court this morning on a charge of agreeing and conspiring to public mischief and another remanded for sentence on a charge of causing public mischief.

Kay Bobjerg Nielson pleaded guilty and had his one year jail sentence suspended by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite.

Andrew Duke also pleaded guilty and was remanded in custody for sentence until March 2.

Police told the court that Duke was observed putting sugar in the gas tank of a taxi belonging to Kenneth Nesbitt of 909 First Avenue West, early Sunday morning on Fifth Street.

Police said that Neilson had arranged with Duke to carry out the offence.

In sentencing Neilson, Magistrate Applewhaite said the worst part of this case is that "You fooled an innocent party into doing your dirty work."

Police said both Neilson and Duke were intoxicated at the time of the arrest.

Had the taxi been put into motion, considerable damage would have resulted to the motor, police told the Magistrate.

Neilson was also required by Magistrate Applewhaite to have two persons post a $500 bond for him to keep the peace.

Two remanded

Clarence and Violet Green of Prince Rupert pleaded guilty in city police court Saturday to breaking and entering a dwelling with intent to commit an indictable offence.

They were remanded until March 2 for sentence.

Both admitted breaking into a shack on Second Avenue West Friday night.

DR. W. B. LAING
. . . Quits health service.

Health unit director resigns post

Dr. W. B. Laing, director of Skeena Health Unit announced today that he has tendered his resignation to the Provincial Department of Health and Welfare.

He said that his resignation is effective May 1 and he then plans to go into private practice on Vancouver Island.

Dr. Laing came here from Scotland in May, 1955 after serving in Newfoundland and the Metropolitan Health Board in Vancouver. In 1956 he went on a year's course at the University of Toronto. He was relieved here by Dr. John Smith. In 1957, Dr. Laing returned to the city and continued his post as head of the Skeena Health Unit, secretary of the Union Board of Health and city medical health officer.

During his tenure here Dr. Laing helped in the formation of the Prince Rupert branch of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, of which he has served two years as president. He was a foundling member of the Prince Rupert Retarded Children's association and has been active in the work of the local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Dr. Laing, Mrs. Laing and their children John and Andrew will leave here for Port Alberni sometime in June.

Fined $50

Edward Daschuk of Prince Rupert was fined $50 and costs, or 30 days in city police court Saturday, for creating a disturbance on Third Avenue West by using bad language.

Alfred Harvey Baffo of Prince Rupert was fined $25 and costs, or, in default, 15 days for speeding on Frederick Street.

BCHA rebels against "injustice"

VICTORIA (CP) —The B.C. Hospital Association rebelled Friday against what it called provincial government injustice in discriminating against hospital employees. The association made a direct appeal to members of the legislature for support.

Letters were sent to all MLAs seeking help in overcoming a government refusal to allow all 84 general hospitals in the province to use operating funds for a contributory medical services plan and unemployment insurance to cover employees.

The letter said the provincial health department—through the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service which controls hospitals—has repeatedly refused to allow the hospitals to give their employees fringe benefits, such as unemployment insurance and a medical services insurance plan on a contributory basis.

It also said that, except for Royal Jubilee Hospital here and the Vancouver General Hospital, all the hospitals have been denied the right to use operating funds for employer contributions to pension plans for hospital workers.

The two hospitals that have this right instituted pension plans before BCHIS took control 10 years ago.

"With only sufficient exceptions to make the injustice rankle, the health department and BCHIS denies all employees of the hospitals under its control the various fringe benefits which are enjoyed by almost all other wage earners in the province—including the civil servants of the government," the letter said.

WEATHER—

Gale warning. Continued cloudy, snowflurries this evening. Little change in temperature. Southerly winds 30 with gusts to 40 over and high Tuesday 38 and exposed areas. Low tonight 45.

TIDES—

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	02:03	21.6 feet
	14:10	22.2 feet
Low	08:04	3.8 feet
	20:23	1.9 feet