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Gigantic snow, mud slide wipes out communication

Avalanche dwarfs Rupert slide of '57

A gigantic landslide of snow, mud and rocks, that dwarfs the November 22, 1957 Mount Oldfield slide on Wantage Road, roared down onto the Canadian National Railways main line and Highway 16 between Kwinitsa and Salvus yesterday afternoon.

The slide, about 45 miles west of here, is reported to be 800 yards long at the base with depths up to 30 feet. It wiped out Prince Rupert's rail, road, telegraphic and long distance telephone communications.

At press time today, the city's only means of contact with the outside world was by sea, air and by wireless through the courtesy of the Department of Transport's radio station at Digby Island.

It was reported today by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio station CFPR, Prince Rupert, that the slide began at 5:40 p.m. yesterday.

As it hurtled down the mountainside it partly buried the Salvus railway tunnel, swept away tracks, knocked down eight telegraph poles west of the tunnel and four east of the tunnel and spilled over Highway 16 into the Skeena River.

The mountains of mud, rock and snow cut the Canadian National Telegraph lines and also the long distance wires from the Prince Rupert telephone department.

Also wiped out was The Prince Rupert Daily News teletype service from Canadian Press and all other teletypes in the district. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's radio station CFPR also lost contact with its network at the same time.

The provincial Department of Highways immediately issued bulletins warning the public that Highway 16 to Terrace was closed and the CNR said, last night, that the westbound passenger train, scheduled to arrive here at 9:20 p.m. would not get here until 9 a.m. today at the earliest.

However, it was learned this morning from the CNR that the westbound train, returned to Terrace last night and its arrival

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See SLIDE

A Highways Department spokesman said at 2:30 this afternoon that from estimates given by crews working on the blocked northern transprovincial Highway for half a mile, it is not expected that the road will be opened until Friday at the earliest.

He said that crews and snow-clearing equipment were working at both ends of the slide which is composed of "a great deal of snow, trees and rubble."

Extend hospital coverage

VICTORIA (CP)—B.C. hospital insurance would be extended to cover outpatient and diagnostic services by a bill now before the provincial legislature.

The amendment to the Hospital Insurance Act would not be effective with passage however, but would require proclamation by the cabinet.

BCHIS at present pays bills for persons classed as acutely ill, and it is thought the amendment will depend upon whether the federal government will also accept responsibility for outpatients and diagnostic services under the national health plan.

A B.C. government spokesman said that so far "Ottawa is dead set against covering these services and there is no sign of a change in policy, at least in the near future."

The B.C. government could provide the added service on its own once the amendment is adopted.

It would mean BCHIS would pay for treatment at clinics run by doctors, as well as in acute hospitals. X-ray diagnostic treatment also would be covered.

G. E. MORTIMORE, Victoria Colonist and Prince Rupert Daily News columnist was winner of the $400 feature-writing award in the 1958 National Newspaper awards. Mr. Mortimore, born in Tanganyika in 1920, won the award for a series on Canada's Indians. His "All Aboard" column appears on the Daily News editorial page three times a week. —CP photo.

$100 fine levied on youth

A 19-year old youth was fined a total of $100 yesterday afternoon in Port Edward police court when he pleaded guilty to separate charges of contributing to juvenile delinquency and supplying an Indian with liquor.

Fined $50, costs or in default of payment sentenced to 30 days in jail on the contributing charge was Leslie Robert Wing, of Port Edward. He was also fined $50 costs or in default sentenced to 30 days in jail on the second charge.

Also in Port Edward police court yesterday was Walter Sholtz of Prince Rupert and McBride who was fined $50, costs or in default sentenced to 30 days in jail after he pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to remain at the scene of an accident.

Police told the court that Sholtz was the driver of a car which, during a lineup of cars on a slippery section of Highway 16 near Tyee on Saturday, backed up and hit another car and then left the scene. In addition to the fine his driver's licence was suspended for one month.

VANCOUVER (CP)—An illiterate 18-year-old was sentenced Monday to 53 concurrent three-year terms in prison after pleading guilty to as many charges of breaking and entering and theft. If the sentences for Fred Gatenby had been made consecutive, they would have totalled 159 years.

$600,000 attack on cancer

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia will take a major part in the attack on cancer with construction of a new cancer research centre in the province.

F. H. Brown, president of the B.C. division of the Canadian Cancer Society, said the centre will be housed in a new medical-sciences building at the University of B.C. here.

Construction is to start this summer and the centre should be in operation next year.

Mr. Brown, speaking at the B.C. division annual meeting, said the research centre represents the start of a dream of long standing.

The unit will cost an estimated $600,000.

Mr. Brown said the division has raised its fund-drive target by about 20 per cent this year to $296,000. The campaign, which raised more than $250,000 last year, starts April 1.

Funeral set for snowshoe champion

Funeral services for former Canadian snowshoe champion William Henry Sherman, will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, with Rev. Dr. R. W. K. Elliott officiating.

The services for Mr. Sherman, who died Monday at his home at 337 Third Avenue West, will be held at Ferguson Funeral Home. He was 70 years old.

Born in Cornwall, England, Mr. Sherman came to Canada just after the turn of the century and went to Rossland B.C. during the last of its gold rush days.

It was there that according to a Vancouver Province write-up of February 15, 1907, that Mr. Sherman won the Canadian snowshoe championship over a three-mile course around Red Mountain at the annual Rossland Winter Carnival. That same year, the Province records, Rossland won the British Columbia hockey championship by defeating Nelson 3-2 in the finals and a contemporary of Mr. Sherman's, Tom Longbow the famous Indian long distance runner was defeated by George Bonhag in the three-mile event.

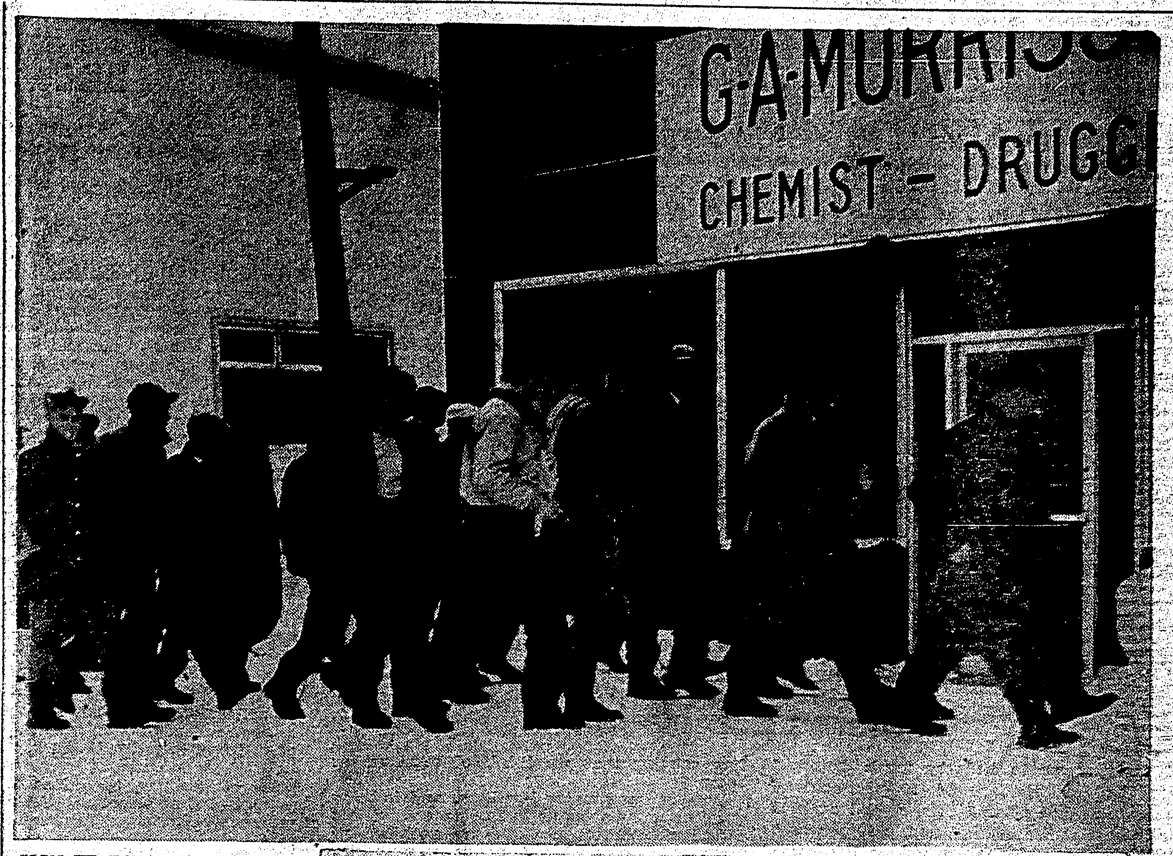
Mr. Sherman was a personal friend of Rossland's champion hockey team on whose roster were T. J. Coulter, H. Stevens, Roy Stephens, J. M. Donahue, A. L. Acorn and the famous Al Keating.

After coming to Prince Rupert in 1908, Mr. Sherman worked as a steelworker in the Prince Rupert drydock and shipyard and also in the Seattle drydock. He continued as a drydock worker for 25 years, and finally retired in 1951.

A former member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and Loyal Order of the Moose, Mr. Sherman is survived by a daughter Mrs. G. N. Lemire and grandson Laird both of Vancouver.

Interment will be in Fairview cemetery.

Prince Rupert has now gone 62 days without a fatal traffic accident.



SIGN UP FOR WOODS—Loggers troop down a street in Grand Falls, Nfld. to sign up for bush work with the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company. The company has been struck by the 1200 members of the International Woodworkers of America (CLC). The Newfoundland Brotherhood of Woodworkers (Ind.), a newly-formed union backed by Premier Smallwood, has signed a contract with the company. —CP photo.

Nfld. loggers working

GRAND FALLS, Nfld. (CP)—The Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company says its pulpwood hauling operations are back in full swing now that it has signed a contract with the Newfoundland Brotherhood of Woods-Workers, an independent union promoted by Premier Smallwood.

Hauling is normal, the company says, despite continued picketing by the striking International Woodworkers of America (CLC).

Forty-six of Anglo-Newfoundland's 60 woods camps are busy, woods superintendent William Johnson said Monday. Nine camps were closed and five had finished their work.

An IWA spokesman said his union will continue its fight to get a contract with Anglo-Newfoundland. The loggers, he said, "still want the IWA and as long as they want the IWA we'll stay here."

Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announcement that the federal government will not intervene in the labor dispute at present was received quietly here.

Brotherhood loggers were entering the woods without interference from IWA pickets. Future IWA strategy may become known when district President H. Landon Ladd returns today from a meeting of the Canadian Labor Congress executive at Ottawa.

POLICEMAN'S FUNERAL procession at St. John's, Newfoundland moves along led by fellow officers. Constable William Moss was fatally injured in clash between striking loggers and police at a picket line in Badger, Nfld. —CP photo.

Attention to morality asked by Skeena MP

OTAWA (CP)—CCF Commons member Frank Howard, calling for more attention to morality in election campaign contributions, has proposed that political parties be required to report the sources of their funds.

"I think the public is entitled to know who is paying the piper with respect to parties as well as with respect to candidates," he said in the Commons Friday.

Mr. Howard, MP for Skeena, said the election act already requires candidates' agents to report contributions made to individual candidates.

He said that such returns from the 1958 election show that Frederick Field of Vancouver, recently appointed a director of the Bank of Canada, contributed more than $20,000 to four successful Progressive Conservative candidates in British Columbia, including Works Minister Green.

Mr. Howard said he is not suggesting "something nefarious" was involved but "people would probably ask themselves this question if they had known of the situation."

Bank of Canada directors receive no salary, but are paid a daily allowance and expenses for attending five directors' meetings a year.

Mr. Howard was opening debate on a bill he sponsored to amend the Canada Elections Act.

During an hour allocated to private members' bills his measure was "talked out" by critical Progressive Conservative members and did not come to a vote. It stands little chance of further debate this session.

Marcel Lambert (PC-Edmonton West) asked whether Mr. Howard would apply his remarks to former CCF Commons members given jobs by the Saskatchewan CCF government. Mr. Howard did not reply.

Walter Dinsdale (PC-Brandon-Souris) said Mr. Howard takes a "dark and suspicious" view of political morality in Canada.

W. L. M. Creaghan (PC-Westmorland) said the bill would, in effect, violate the secrecy of the ballot because it would disclose the political allegiance of many individuals who make small contributions to political parties.

Mr. Howard said returns showed Mr. Field contributed $5,000 to Mr. Green's campaign in Vancouver Quadra, $7,875 for Douglas Jung in Vancouver Centre, $5,000 for W. C. Henderson in Cariboo constituency, and $3,000 for Ernest Broome in Vancouver South.

The CCF members said he doesn't know whether Mr. Field was handling the money "in transit from somebody else."

He said it is estimated that the Conservative party spent $7,000,000 to $8,000,000 in the last election.

"We are of the opinion that the general public is entitled to know what elements of society, if any, are attempting to subvert political parties. . . .

"We should attempt to maintain the greatest possible degree of morality with regard to political contributions."

Californians best customers

VICTORIA (CP) — Californians were Victoria's best tourist customers last year, the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau said Monday. It listed 7,306 California cars entering B.C. through Victoria in 1958, compared with 5,773 from Washington and 3,379 from Oregon.

Stage slated for symphony on Friday

For the benefit of the audiences at the Vancouver Symphony orchestra concerts, scheduled for Friday afternoon and evening, a stage is being constructed in HMCS Chatham drill hall.

A spokesman for the local symphony committee said that the stage, to hold 68 musicians and conductor Irwin Hoffman will be 43 feet by 36 feet and four feet high.

The action was taken to ensure that everyone of the three expected audiences of more than 3,000 will be able to see the orchestra in action as well as hear it.

Mr. Hoffman, his musicians and an estimated $50,000 worth of instruments are expected to take off from Vancouver at 8 a.m. Friday, arrive in Terrace at 8 a.m. and reach the city at noon. After a lunch, the orchestra will play its first concert for school students. Another will follow at 2:10 and the evening performance is set for 8 p.m.

The following day the orchestra leaves for Kitimat and then flies to Port St. John, Dawson Creek, Prince George and Quesnel.

CIVIL SERVANTS BIDING TIME

No decision on injunction

Prince Rupert officials of the B.C. Government Employees Association were notified by telegram from Vancouver today that hearings of the government's injunction against picketing had concluded Tuesday afternoon and that Mr. Justice John G. Ruttan had reserved judgment.

"We'll just have to sit tight until the judgment is brought down", said Donald Kidd, president of the Prince Rupert branch.

"No action can be taken until the association learns whether the judgment is in favor of the government or not," he added.

Meanwhile, in Victoria, association officials said Tuesday they will take their case to the Supreme Court of Canada if they lose the battle in B.C. Supreme Court.

The B.C. Federation of Labor has promised "full financial and moral support".

A. C. Bennett, assistant general secretary of the B.C. Government Employees Association, said that association headquarters in Vancouver has received "a stack of wires from all over the province urging us to keep up the good fight."

"And we are going to do just that," he said. "If the injunction is continued, we shall pursue it to the Supreme Court of Canada.

"We can't afford to forsake our principles just for the sake of a few bucks."

The government obtained the injunction last Friday morning, four hours after civil servants were called off their jobs to back demands that the Carrothers report be made public. The report deals with bargaining rights for civil servants.

The issue involved is whether the 11,000 member association is to get trade union status.

In 1957 the association threatened to strike over the question but agreed to await a study of civil servants collective bargaining rights. Professor A. W. Carrothers of the University of British Columbia was appointed to make the study and his report has been in the hands of the government for several weeks.

Failing a favorable judgment on the injunction, the government may decide to invoke the Civil Defence Act, since Attorney General Robert Bonner has hinted that practically all duties of civil servants are concerned with carrying out statutes.

Mr. Bonner said in Victoria Monday that the government might follow up on their right to force continuation of statutory duties and the question of legality of interrupting such duties could decide whether the Civil Defence Act is to be invoked.

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POLICEMEN'S DRINKING SPREE ALL IN INTEREST OF SCIENCE

BOSTON (AP)—Two Worcester policemen hoisted a few Monday on the house—the staid old Massachusetts State House to be exact—all in the interest of science.

An impromptu bar for two was set up before the legislative committee on the judiciary to demonstrate a machine that measures the alcoholic contents of one's blood.

The bar opened at 8:30 a.m. The machine tests were conducted shortly before noon—an hour after the officers had their last drink.

One man drank half a pint of bonded 100-proof whisky, in measured doses with soda His companion tossed off a couple more—not because it was for free but just so they could show the variance of the machine.

The machine gave a reading of .10 per cent alcohol for the man who drank the half-pint. His pal was clocked at .12 per cent for his 10 ounces.

Both readings, the committee was told, indicated the men were under the influence.

The bar was closed as the legislators considered a bill that would permit the machine's evidence to be used in state courts.

WEATHER—

Variable cloudiness with little change in temperatures. Scattered showers. Winds westerly 20 in exposed areas off the coast, otherwise light. Low tonight and high Thursday at Prince Rupert 38 and 44.

TIDES—

Thursday, March 19, 1959

High	08:44	16.9 feet
	22:04	16.1 feet
Low	02:32	10.3 feet
	15:36	6.8 feet