

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

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Editorial Notes and Clippings

"PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN."

"Peace on earth, goodwill to men." The message rings down the centuries since the first Christmas Day, over nineteen centuries ago, and today is as welcome as it was then. It was such a gentle message breathing tenderness and love, and each year since the establishment of the Christian church the season of those words has been one that overflows with kindness, self-sacrifice and love.

Santa Claus, the darling of the children, is the personification of the spirit—the great jovial, gentle old saint, with his untold wealth of toys and alluring presents. Millions and millions of little ones have been looking forward, since last year,

to the return of the saint, but there are also little ones that the Yuletide only brings yearning for that they have not and unsatisfied desires for that which they cannot obtain. This, although in a measure it can be alleviated, cannot be stopped, for the Christ words ring as true today as they did in the Holy Land—"The poor ye have always with you."

It is a sad thing to contemplate were it not for the other message, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men," and the accompanying promise of salvation for all, regardless of poverty, wealth or social standing.

This Christmas tide let there be joy and gladness in the hearts of all, and in the celebration, the feasting and drinking, let us see to it that everyone possible is satisfied.

In the Letter Box

LABOR.

The Working Class and the Public Interest of the City of Prince Rupert.

To the Editor of The News.

Dear Sir: In our previous article we promised to clear the political ground regarding municipal affairs. Let us do so.

The main characteristic of the twentieth century's civilization is, essentially, to buy cheap and sell at a higher figure so as to realize a profit.

The merchant buys goods at a figure with the object in view of realizing a profit in selling them; in the same way intellectual and manual labor is being bought.

The peculiar quality of labor represented by a human being does not alter its nature of being a commodity like any other one.

Labor, intellectual and manual, embodies all goods and all wealth, as wealth in every shape or form is only materialized human energy; in other words, cerebral human phosphorus applied to the natural resources of the nation.

Governments are raising tariff barriers against foreign goods under the pretext of creating national industries, but, mark the words, protection can only be so by being a parasite on somebody. The national industries are created, yes; but at the expense of the consumers of the products of those industries. The tariff

price is the bonus paid by the community to industries thereby created.

The City of Prince Rupert has adopted a protection on the commodity that she needs most, common labor, so as to foster an industry of her own, home labor. Something scarcely to be found anywhere, nevertheless Prince Rupert has it and if the reader is a taxpayer he knows it.

In every branch of production—the mine, the factories, etc.—there are two distinct interests, those of labor and those of capital. Capital invested hires labor to produce, or transform, goods into goods and remunerates labor with a price called wages.

The two interests are antagonistic, labor is striving to get all he can, capital, on the other end, gives as little as possible, that is human nature applied to everyday life, by every mortal being living under the sun.

Prince Rupert has all the aspect of a great enterprise, yet her interests are complex. The formula of the two conflicting interests existing in the mines, in the factories, and all other enterprising aspect in the city's economy.

Municipal economy is totally different from that of the factory and such like. The interests are not capitalistic and proletarian alone the citizens constituting the working elements are in some way as well as the other shareholders in the corporation more specially in a new metropolis like ours.

The numerous working elements intellectual and manual not sharing in the protectionistic

BEARS THAT MAYOR NEWTON HAS KILLED

Mr. G. R. Naden Tells How Mayor Newton Did Not Save the Telephone System for the People of Prince Rupert---Was Not Even a Shareholder in the First Company

(The Editor The Daily News,
Prince Rupert, B. C.)

Dear Sir:

A story is told of the visit of a bear to a house kept by two people. When the unwelcome visitor rapped at the door (incidentally breaking in said door) the man of the house promptly climbed into the loft, leaving his wife to entertain the visitor. This she did by reaching for a gun and shooting the bear. When the neighbors came around the man of the house very proudly exhibited the bear he had killed. The heroine was too modest to claim the honors, but the neighbors knew well enough who had killed the bear. You cannot fool your neighbors for very long. For years strangers coming into the community were regaled with the story of "how I killed the bear."

The municipal elections are nearly here once more, and Mayor Newton is again telling his neighbors and the strangers in the community "how he killed the bear"—beg his pardon, I meant "how he saved the telephone for the people of Prince Rupert."

His neighbors know well enough who saved the telephone, but, for the benefit of strangers in the community, it may be well to relate the history of the municipal telephone of Prince Rupert.

During the year 1909, a representative of the British Columbia Telephone Company was spying out the land with the intention of getting one of the tentacles of that octopus in Prince Rupert. A number of the citizens, knowing the strangle hold that same company had obtained on nearly every municipality in the Province of British Columbia, tried to devise some ways and means of preventing them from obtaining the same strangle hold here. The city was not incorporated; there was no official body which could take it up on behalf of the city.

A meeting of the citizens was held and it was decided to ask the government for permission to install a telephone system in this city and to have the use of the streets pending the incorporation of the city. This permission was granted, with the proviso that

tariff adopted by the city on the hour of common labor are indisputably being sacrificed by the extra taxation on their property, just for the sake of keeping up a protection for their fellow workers on the city's payroll.

Prince Rupert is an advanced post of the economy of Canada, and the world, therefore subject to the laws of competition. Excessive protectionism on labor will undermine its future and prevent her development.

The policy of a semi-class struggle that our city fathers gradually adopted in the last two years is detrimental to both the interests of labor and capital.

For the City of Prince Rupert it is a question of to be or not to be.

These and many other arguments we will discuss in future letters, if the reader will obligingly follow us.

DEMOCRATICUS.

THE CHAMPEEN'S CREED

Gather the nickel's while you may
When all the world is cheering,
The cheers that ring for you today
Tomorrow may be jeering.

Only a short and fleeting day
To live on milk and honey,
Gather the shekels while you may—
Go out and eop the money.

Mrs. Cleveland, who has been on a visit to her sister for several months, left for her home in Chicago on Saturday on the Princess May.

Accountant desires bookkeeping or other work for evenings. Apply Box 63, Daily News, 301-7

Miss Johnston, Miss Milligan, Miss Martin and Miss Peck, all members of the teaching staff of the public schools of the city, left on the Princess May on Saturday evening to spend the Christmas vacation in the south.

Dainty Xmas Handkerchiefs and Collar Sets at Demers'.

the telephone company should be turned over to the city after incorporation.

Public spirited citizens were asked to subscribe for the shares in this company in order to be the first in the field. The subscriptions came in very rapidly, and the installation of the telephone system was proceeded with immediately.

Being the secretary of that company, I had access to all the papers in connection therewith, and I have diligently searched without success for the name of S. M. Newton among the subscribers to that company.

Mr. W. M. Law was president, and he gave a great deal of his time and the benefit of his undoubted business ability to the organization of the company, and got it started.

Westenhaver Bros. spent a great deal of time in portions of Canada and the States trying to find out the best and cheapest system it was possible to install, and a number of other citizens freely gave of their time at meetings of the company and otherwise.

To make a long story short, the company was organized and the system installed before the incorporation of the city in 1910. As everyone knows, the first city council had its hands pretty full. For months meetings were held on an average of five nights in the week, in addition to committee meetings in the daytime. In spite of the demands on their time for other things, one of the first things they did was to introduce a bylaw for the purpose of taking over the telephone company.

It is interesting to note the actions of these wicked people, who, according to Mayor Newton, were anxious to keep the telephone for themselves. They donated all the work they had had in incorporating the company and installing the system. They donated the use of the money from the time they had put it up till the city paid them—not even charging 5 per cent. interest for the use of the money.

I can say, without hesitation, that had that telephone system been installed by the municipality it would have cost at least 50

per cent. more than it did. I can also say, without hesitation, as secretary of that company, that during all that time I never heard it suggested by a single shareholder that it should be held as a private corporation. Had they wanted to do so, they could not have held it. The government gave them permission to use the streets with the distinct proviso that the company was to be turned over to the municipality. Even had that not been so the company would have had to obtain a franchise in the usual way, and every voter would have had his say.

When the bylaw was put through, if I remember rightly, nine votes were cast against it. I think I am well within the mark in stating that, had the first city council wanted the by-law defeated, they could certainly have got more than nine votes against it.

Mayor Newton, by this time, knows more about the difficulty of getting the requisite number of property owners to sign a petition asking for a money by-law to be put through, and the remarkable success the Mayor had this year in passing his money bylaws has probably given him further information on that subject.

Yours truly,

G. R. NADEN.

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