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59 unemployed in city to get jobs under federal winter work program

Projects to start "immediately"

Winter work to the value of $77,807 will start immediately for 59 unemployed Prince Rupert workers, Mayor P. J. Lester announced at City Council last night.

Four projects, all coming under the Federal Government Winter Work aid program, will provide the jobs. Work will start immediately.

First men to be employed will be those civic workmen laid off in November and December. After they have been re-hired, all labor wanted will be engaged through the local Unemployment Insurance Service office.

The Federal Government will be paying some $28,488 of the total cost.

Biggest of the four projects will be the hiring of 30 men for building and repairing roads and drains on Park Avenue, Sixth Avenue East, Bacon Street, Tenth Avenue, Water Street, Alfred Street and Seventh Avenue East.

This will cost $33,185, with the Federal share $10,697.

Another 16 men will be employed on surveying, and clearing land for the new sewer program. This job will cost $31,548, with the Federal share $13,104.

Eight men will get work on the cast iron water main between Seventh Avenue East, Claude Street and Donald Street. This will cost a total of $7.538, with the Federal share $2,419.

Finally, clearing McClymont Park will engage five men. The Federal Government will contribute some $2,268 of the total cost of $5,536.

FOUR MEMBERS of the First Prince Rupert Scout troop, shown above, last night received the highest honor in scouting when they were presented with Queen Scouts badges. The presentation was made by District Scouts Commissioner E. A. Williamson, who told the boys they will be going to Government House in Victoria where they will be invested as Queen's Scouts by Lieutenant-Governor Frank M. Ross at Easter. Shown from left to right are Wayne Watmough, Robert Gordon, Richard Reekie and Thomas Harding. Scoutmaster David Ridsdale is sitting at front. —Staff photo by Charles E. Giordano.

City's finances "best in B.C."

Prince Rupert is in one of the most enviable positions of any city in British Columbia regarding its finances, newly-elected president of the Chamber of Commerce Dr. L. M. Greene, told members at the group's annual meeting last night.

"No city in B.C. can come close to our strong financial position," Dr. Greene said.

He said the city had no refundable debt other than the firehall which was approved at last month's civic elections and $104,000 for the Civic Centre swimming pool.

Dr. Greene said that the gross debt or "contingent liabilities" amounted to "only $99 per person, man, woman and child compared to a per capita debt of $300 in Vancouver and $659 in Kitimat."

The per capita net debt, he said, was $21 in Prince Rupert compared to Kitimat's $505 per person and Vancouver's $176.

"We are in an excellent position," he told the Chamber.

He said that since he first came to Prince Rupert "of my own free will to cast my lot with this city" he had seen evidence of great progress.

"When I first came here Third Avenue was just a gravel road. Since that time 15 miles of ashphalt have been laid, $9.500,000 worth of construction has been carried out which included 340 new homes and the population is pushing 12,000."

He said that "a lot of credit goes to city councils past and present who struggled through the tough times to advance the city."

No city does more to help the sick and ailing than Prince Rupert, no city with the exception, perhaps, of Vancouver has a pioneer home such as Prince Rupert, few cities have a Civic Centre to equal the one here.

Dr. Greene said that he had met a feeling in "certain quarters that Prince Rupert was not the best place to live."

Yet, he said, many newcomers who feel they are victims of circumstances when they first come here, are sorry to leave when they are transferred elsewhere.

"The Chamber of Commerce must sell Prince Rupert in 1959 to British Columbia and the world as a place that has valuable assets and a pleasant way of life."

Of unfinished business of the chamber he said it should work for complete paving of the Prince Rupert to Terrace highway, completion of the Port Edward to Cassiar cannery road, the airport and the marine highway to Alaska.

Doctors honored by chamber

Dr. L. M. Greene, physician and surgeon here since 1949, last night was sworn in as the president of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce.

Vice-president is Dr. A. W. Large.

In administering the oath of office to Dr. Greene, past president of 20 years ago, J. T. Harvey said that he believed that the occasion was the first in the history of Canada when the president and vice-president of a chamber of commerce were members of the medical profession.

"It is a sign of the confidence shown in such men and an accolade to the medical profession," Mr. Harvey said.

Mr. Harvey said that although he had presided at many swearing-in ceremonies for presidents of the chamber that none had had so much meaning as this year's. It was 20 years ago, he said, that he himself was president of the Prince Rupert chamber and he hoped that the city would progress to a greater degree than it had during those hard years."

Dr. Greene said that being elected to head the chamber was one "of the great honors of his life" and that he felt "very humble."

He said he was grateful to retiring president A. Bruce Brown for "leaving a strong organization and a capable executive."

Elected to the 10-man board of directors for 1959 were Norman Christensen, T. C. Melville, J. S. Burns, Orme G. Stuart and A. H. G. Ogilvie for two-year terms and Earl R Gordon for a one-year term. Continuing members are E. W. Brown, A. D. Perley, John Guthrie, E. T. Applewhaite.

Resignations were received with regret from A. S. Nickerson who plans to leave the city and from Mrs. Jocelyn Bolton secretary, whose post as curator of the Museum of Northern British Columbia and secretary of the Tourist Bureau have forced her to relinquish her position as secretary of the chamber.

Retiring president A. Bruce Brown paid tribute to Mrs. Bolton's loyalty and faithful service and co-operation given both him as president for the past year and the chamber during the last five years.

ROCKET SOARS TOWARDS SUN

MOSCOW (Reuters)—Russia's cosmic rocket, its radio dead, Monday night was zooming toward the sun and the orbit it may follow for eternity.

An announcement here said the radio, which had been flashing back information since its launching Friday, fell silent Monday morning.

"The program of tracking the rocket and the scientific research connected with it have been thereby closed," the announcement said.

Prince Rupert has now gone 357 days without a fatal traffic accident.

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Freighter takes grain to U.K.

The Norwegian freighter MS Sunmoss sailed for the United Kingdom at 1 p.m. today after taking on 11,200 long tons of No. 1 feed barley at the Canadian Government elevator. She arrived here December 28.

Another grain ship is expected to berth at the elevator late Wednesday night.

Chamber still seeking more grain store space

Chamber of Commerce will continue its bid to have government elevator storage space here enlarged despite the fact that the head government grain elevator official says that there is no need.

Monday night the chamber referred the matter of extending elevator storage facilities to the incoming executive.

Chairman of the chamber's industrial committee T. B. Black said he felt the matter "could be pursued further."

The move was taken after a letter from A. E. Jacobson, general manager of Canadian Government elevators at Winnipeg informed the chamber that "the matter of extending storage facilities is not considered to be necessary at the present time nor in the foreseeable future."

Mr. Jacobson said there had been no demand indicated by the trade that increased facilities were needed "or that they would be used."

He said that the board of grain commissioners would act promptly should the need for expanded facilities at Prince Rupert develop.

Mr. Jacobson said that while "we too are very pleased with the increased use of our Prince Rupert facilities during the past year . . . I feel that it is only fair to note that the low ocean freight rate has been the principal factor in these activities."

He said that anything that tends to reduce the cost of placing grain at destination is likely to promote such activity and conversely anything that increases such costs will have the opposite effect.

"Such factors appear to be more important at Prince Rupert than the lower mainland as there are few inbound cargoes (at Prince Rupert.)"

LOST FISHERMEN SAFE

EDMONTON (CP)—Twenty-five Great Slave Lake fishermen signalled their safety to search planes late Monday, then went back to dodging widening ice cracks and netting trout and whitefish.

They had not been seen since New Year's Eve when they left their base at Hay River, N.W.T., on the southern lakeshore, in snowmobiles for ice-hole fishing spots as far as 100 miles across Great Slave's 11,170-square-mile frozen surface.

B.C. ROUNDUP

Commissioners afraid to talk, says Briggs

VICTORIA (CP)—Top B.C. Electric company officials have red-carpet treatment to Premier Bennett's office whenever they choose to go, but B.C. Power commissioners have often been most reluctant or even afraid to discuss matters of importance with the premier, H. Lee Briggs, former power commission general manager, told the Shrum Royal Commission Monday.

Mr. Briggs, beginning three days of testimony before the royal commission into power commission financing and operations, said this was an indication of where blame for a proportion of poor relationships between the B.C. Electric and the power commission should be laid.

VICTORIA (CP) — British Columbia labor leaders have asked the provincial government to put $5,000,000 into an emergency fund to help B.C.'s unemployed.

The request came Monday from the 110-000-member B.C. Federation of Labor, whose leaders were presenting their annual brief to the cabinet here.

Ministers sat late into the evening to give a full hearing to the 10,000-word document.

The federation backed an earlier demand from the Vancouver Labor Council that a state of emergency be declared to deal with the unemployment situation.

PRINCE GEORGE (CP)— Jack Holst, president of the International Woodworkers of America local here, said Monday he has been authorized to serve strike notices on 15 of the largest northern B.C. lumber plants. He said a walkout by 1,100 IWA members will take place "within three weeks" unless there is a settlement of union demands.

Workers are seeking a 7½ per cent increase in the basic wage scale now at $1.53 an hour.

The Interior Lumbermen's Association rejected the demands. It said operators can not stand an increase now and the majority report of a conciliation board was that there be no wage increase.

Accidental death verdict in M. F. Nickerson inquest

Death by severe fall and shock was the verdict brought in by a six-man jury last night inquiring into the death of well-known city resident Millward F. Nickerson, manager and proprietor of the F. E. Hunt Ltd., store at Cow Bay.

The body of Mr. Nickerson was found floating in the water under the ramp of the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-Operative Store at noon December 24.

The jury's verdict said that Mr. Nickerson met his death by accidental means after 8:30 p.m. December 23 in the waters in the vicinity of Cow Bay.

City RCMP told the jury that no foul play was suspected.

In giving evidence to the jury, Mrs. Gunvor Strand said she last saw Mr. Nickerson at about 8 p.m. December 23 when he was leaving house Number 7 Cow Bay.

No evidence was given as to the direction Mr. Nickerson went after he felt the house.

RCMP Constable Richard Sherwood, who conducted the inquest pointed out to the jury a location on the Cow Bay road about 45 yards from Number 7, where Mr. Nickerson could have "jumped or fallen."

The constable said that at the location there is a drop of about 10 feet from the roadway to the water and several sharp rocks on the way down the slope.

Dr. R. B. Smith who performed an autopsy on the body said that death was likely due to severe shock caused by chest injury.

"I would likely think this man must have fallen quite some distance or to a hard surface to sustain such an injury," Doctor Smith said.

Members of the jury were: Sydney Kirk (foreman), William Allen McClelland, Chuck McLaughlin, Alfred Bredafeld, Harold Stymest, Alfred Adams, and Harold Paulson.

Here 36 years Mrs. J. Strand dies aged 62

Mrs. Jessie Duthie Strand, 1205 Beach Place and a resident of this city for 36 years, died this morning in Prince Rupert General hospital after a lengthy illness. She was 62.

Mrs. Strand was the widow of Ole Strand who predeceased her in 1951.

Born in Peterhead, Scotland, Mrs. Strand, the former Jessie Strachan, came to Canada in 1923 straight to Prince Rupert.

She is survived by a son John in Vancouver; one daughter Olive in Prince Rupert; five brothers, William and John Strachan in Prince Rupert, Robert Strachan in Victoria, Alex of Seattle and James in Vancouver; one sister Betsy Buchanan in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Funeral arrangements in the hands of Ferguson Funeral Home will be announced later.

MAYOR WARNS

Tremendous task ahead for council

City Council faces a tremendous task in 1959, Mayor P. J. Lester said at last night's statutory meeting.

Outlining the program for the next 12 months, Mayor Lester was able to give council some items of good news.

He disclosed:

- That only yesterday, representatives of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation arrived to discuss the construction by the Federal Government of 30 new apartments under the National Housing Act.
- Three consultants would arrive today to begin survey work for the new sewer program.
- Tenders for the new fire hall are due on JanuaryE 15 and work should begin immediately.
- The street lighting survey should result soon in an improvement and modernization.
- **A Federal architect will arrive next week to discuss sale of the Federal Building to the city. City architects are already working on plans for conversion of the building.**
- Plans should be ready soon for the new water supply system.
- Work is hoped to start on the new sawmill.

Mayor Lester returned to an old problem when he advocated a modified City Manager plan for the city administration.

City administration could be improved by this, he said, and added that he intended to propose such a plan during the year.

But he sounded a final cautionary note when he suggested council's motto for 1959 should be "We must pay for what we get."

He commented: "Most of us have been public representatives for a number of years, and we know there is no limit to the requests for service and amenities on the part of our residents.

"There is, however, an understandable reluctance to pay for all this."

He concluded: "By planning thoroughly, creating and encouraging a sense of participation and working towards the same goal we will make this city a better place in which to live."

SMALLER COMMITTEES BID DEFEATED BY NEW COUNCIL

A move by Alderman T. Norton Youngs to have smaller City Council committees, meeting more often, was defeated at last night's council meeting.

Ald. Youngs said the smaller committees could devote more attention to detail, as they did under the set-up of some years ago.

Ald. A. Donald Ritchie said the idea would work with an eight-member council, but not with the present six-member body.

Ald. George Hills said if any committee now found itself pressed for time, there was no reason why it could not arrange an extra meeting.

Speeding city man fined $35

William Howard Pound of Prince Rupert was fined $35, costs or in default of payment sentenced to 10 days in jail when he was found guilty by the Magistrate in Port Edward police court yesterday to a charge of speeding.

RCMP said Pound was followed from near Oliver Lake and could not be reached until near the city limits, a distance of about three miles.

VANCOUVER (CP)—Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston of British Columbia said Monday night there has been no offer from the federal government to help develop the power potential of the Columbia River.

O'Neal elected secretary of B.C. Labor Federation

VANCOUVER (CP)—E. P. O'Neal, secretary of the Prince Rupert Labor Council, has been named full-time secretary of the 110,000-member B.C. Federation of Labor, it was announced Monday.

Mr. O'Neal is president of Local 708 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers. He succeeds George Home, leaving for Ottawa to become political education director of the Canadian Labor Congress.

Jim Bury, who holds an international labor post now in Mexico, will be assistant to Mr. O'Neal.

In Prince Rupert, E. P. O'Neal was elected President by acclamation of Local 708, International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers at the annual elections in December.

M. M. Johnson was re-elected Recording Secretary; and B. F. Fortune Financial Secretary.

In the run-off for vice-presidency, J. R. Finnigan was re-elected over Walter Zilversmith and A. S. McCready.

Correspondence Secretary Angus Macphee was re-elected over William Toderas.

Executive position and standing committees will be elected in January.

WEATHER—

Mostly cloudy with scattered snowshowers today and Wednesday. Not much change in temperature. Winds southwesterly 20 over the water but generally southerly 15 along the mainland coast. Low tonight and high Wednesday 25 and 34.

TIDES—

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1959

(Pacific Standard Time)

High	11:44	22.6 feet
Low	05:34	7.4 feet
	18:25	1.8 feet