

## THE DAILY NEWS

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## DAILY EDITION.

Friday, July 11, 1913.

THE PRESENT COAL  
SITUATION HERE.

The public of Prince Rupert will await with interest the report of Mr. Burns on his findings in the present investigation into the cost of coal. With the wide and intimate knowledge of the coal business throughout the province which he must inevitably acquire through his investigations, Mr. Burns should be able to view the situation more clearly and dispassionately and to see both its sides in a truer light than the ordinary consumer, middleman or producer. He should be able to make a just allowance for the cost of the production of coal, and of its transportation, customs dues, wharfage dues, loss through screening, expense of cartage and the like, while allowing a fair profit to the merchants on their investments and a due reward for their labors. He will then be able to judge, as the man in the street cannot judge, whether or not the charge to the consumer is unreasonably high.

His pronouncement upon the discrepancies in the prices for coal charged by different dealers will be awaited here with keen attention. As a specialist in this matter, Mr. Burns may be able to see a reason for this to which most of us are blind. Or he may find that the customary charge of eleven dollars a ton is excessive, perhaps to the extent of one dollar or one dollar and a half per

ton. This last would appear to be a not unlikely finding, judging from the evidence given.

Whatever mention he makes of the condition of the coal market in this city, Mr. Burns will hardly pass lightly over the question of wharfage facilities. The majority of the witnesses spoke strongly of the inconvenience and expense incurred owing to the present lack of sufficient wharfage space and of facilities for handling the coal.

This unfortunate condition of affairs is not by any means wholly blameable upon the Grand Trunk Pacific, but is chiefly due to the Provincial government's attempt to grab the foreshore rights from the Dominion. It is possible that the Grand Trunk Pacific, finding that the foreshore rights which it had acquired, with the waterfront, from the Provincial government were of doubtful validity, might have come to some arrangement with the Ottawa authorities. But there could have been no trouble of the sort if Mr. Bowser and his friends had not asserted the claims of the province to property over which it had no control. If the investigation of Commissioner Burns is to have any effect the Provincial government should renounce its claims to foreshore rights. It might then be possible for further wharf construction to be undertaken and the present congestion would be relieved.

CANADIAN ANNEXATION STILL  
STOCK SUBJECT OF SPEECHES

YET PUBLIC MEN ON BOTH SIDES IN THESE SPEECHES DECLARE THERE IS NO NECESSITY FOR ANY SUCH UNION.

It is strangely the conventional thing, when formal speeches are made by Canadians in the United States and by citizens of the United States in Canada to give assurances that there is no necessity for a union of the two countries. That is unquestionably true; so true, in fact, that there is not the slightest necessity for ever considering the possibility, and even less of necessity for talking about it. Why protest so much?

There is no more desire on the part of the people of the United States to annex Canada than there is to annex Kamchatka or Timbuctoo. The United States is not looking for territory. It has no cause to look for territory. The Philippine Islands were wished on to us, and if not a liability, they are at least a responsibility. Certainly they are not an asset.

Nations seek more territory to get relief from a crowded population. Japan needs additional territory, and other nations more or less in the same predicament may look with longing eyes for a place in which to grow, but not the United States. With the United States the condition is just reversed. We want development and not expansion.

Canada is open to any citizen of the United States, and the United States is open to any citizen of Canada. They may come and go, and, except for the customs officers, not know they are moving from one government to the other. Every fact and common sense preclude the possibility of any attempt at union.

Then why make it a matter for

international speech making? When an individual visits another individual in his home it is not thought necessary to make assurance that no looting or confiscation is contemplated. No more is it needful for us to assure Canada that we are not bent on grand larceny, nor for Canada to assure us that she believes our intentions to be honorable. Let us drop the subject of annexation, which was never more than a political scarecrow, and get along as we have been, good neighbors and good friends, whose friendship and intentions require no protestations.—New York Times.

## OLD TIMER HERE

Secretary of Coal Commission Was a Pioneer.

Mr. H. I. Clegg, the secretary of the coal commission which was sitting here yesterday, is an old timer of Prince Rupert, one of the city's pioneers, in fact. He came here in June, 1908, and stayed until October, during which time he had a lumber yard in front of the present Premier Hotel. Before coming here Mr. Clegg had been for eleven years in the Yukon, being one of the true "sourdoughs" who went in with the great gold rush.

Mr. Clegg noted many great changes in Prince Rupert since the last time he was here, in the late summer of 1912. He was pleased to see the progress of the town at whose birth he had been present. While here he greeted a number of old friends. He went south this morning with Commissioner Burns.

## EXPLOSIVES IN HARBOR

Order-in-Council Issued Prohibiting Their Storage

Ottawa, July 8—An order-in-council has been passed forbidding the keeping or storage of any inflammable or explosive materials within the limits of any harbor, wharf or pier without consent from the harbor master.

The maximum penalty for violation of the regulation is \$100. It shall be in the discretion of the harbor master to order the removal of such material.

## J. D.'s PEW WRECKED

Lightning Strikes Church Spire and Goes through Roof

Cleveland, July 8—A bolt of lightning struck the spire of the Euclid Avenue Baptist church this afternoon, ripped its way through the roof and demolished John D. Rockefeller's pew. Several other pews were wrecked but the big hall of fire did no other damage.

## Clearing Up the Townsite

The work of clearing the G. T. P. property at Fort George, formerly the Fort George Indian reserve, is now practically completed with the exception of some burning that remains to be done.

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