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THE TRIAL

Prince Rupert will soon be famous for slander trials. It seems to be our long suit. For the last few days we have been treated to one of special interest. It is very unfortunate that cases of this kind must be aired in public, and yet perhaps it is best that they should. The newspapers are often accused of rushing after some of these spicy selections to dish up for their readers, and looking at it from one point of view it might appear that this course was wrong. At the same time the minute details of a trial very often show, as this one did, that many of the charges and the common gossip about town have no foundation at all in fact. In this way it is better that the truth should be known, for nothing will dispel suspicion like truth.

A great deal of sympathy has been shown for the plaintiff about town. There is no doubt of the fact that he has been dogged unmercifully. Whether the defendant was honest in his persecution matters not with the average man. The charges were so serious and the effect upon his whole life so great that no man should undertake such a responsibility without being certain of his ground. The people in general will rejoice that the plaintiff has been absolutely exonerated and that with a verdict that leaves not the slightest room for doubt.

This should be a timely warning for others who are accustomed to tamper with their neighbor's character.

Another aspect of the case is open for serious comment. It is well known that a lawyer before the bar is a privileged character; that he has the character of his opponent in his hands to do with as he will. The present case makes it clear that there must be a limit to that privilege. When a lawyer tries to put it into the mouth of the witness that he is a damned scoundrel it is time to call a halt. There are lots of men-walking around in British Columbia who would make such a man pay for his conduct with his blood, and there is hardly a jury in the whole land who would hold him responsible. The climax has been reached in conduct such as this, and if that learned profession has the usual foresight with which it is credited we shall never again have such an exhibition as was witnessed yesterday.

THE CAMPAIGN

The civic campaign is now well launched, with two candidates for mayor in the field. The issue between these two is also so clear and decisive that it is hardly likely that there will be any further addition to the contest.

On the one hand we have ex-Mayor Newton, who has



QUEEN OF THE BRITISH CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL
 Mrs. F. J. Dubose-Taylor, who was leader in the Picture Ball and Xmas Carnival, held in Albert Hall, London, on Dec 3.

already been tried and found wanting. During his term of office almost every council meeting was turned into a burlesque. Trivial matters were drawn out into the most wearisome and lengthy discussions. The business of the city was handled in such a loose and incompetent manner that no one could tell at any time where the city stood. At different times it was necessary to lay off a large number of the city employees in order to find out whether or not there were funds to pay them. All the monies of the city were carried in a general account and the money from one department used to pay for that of another, a thing that is directly against the law. As a climax to the whole jumbling of the city's business Mr. Newton made the confession at the close of his term of office that he did not want to stand for office again because he felt himself to be incapable of handling the job. In the face of all these facts we now have him again come before the electorate and ask for a renewal of their confidences. To put the matter mildly, it seems to be an insult to the intelligence of our citizens.

On the other hand we have Mayor Pattullo offering his

services to the city for another year. During his term of office Mr. Pattullo has absolutely refused to play politics and for that reason he may have lost the support of a certain element who are always looking for the spoils. It is the inevitable result of a man putting the city's interest before his own.

What arguments of weight have the opponents of the mayor got to offer? So far they have not trotted out a single one. They are content to work on the prejudice of the crowd by base insinuations. But they dare not bring them into the light of day. This means they worked well in the past. By a constant system of repetition you can surely fool the people once in a while. The citizens of Prince Rupert however are wise to those methods and they will not be led astray again.

The issue before the electors affects every man who owns an inch of property in town or has any interests at stake. The choice lies between a man who knows absolutely nothing about business, and one who has already put the city's business on an efficient basis and who has further constructive ideas yet to be put in force. There is no mistake about the issue. See ye to it.

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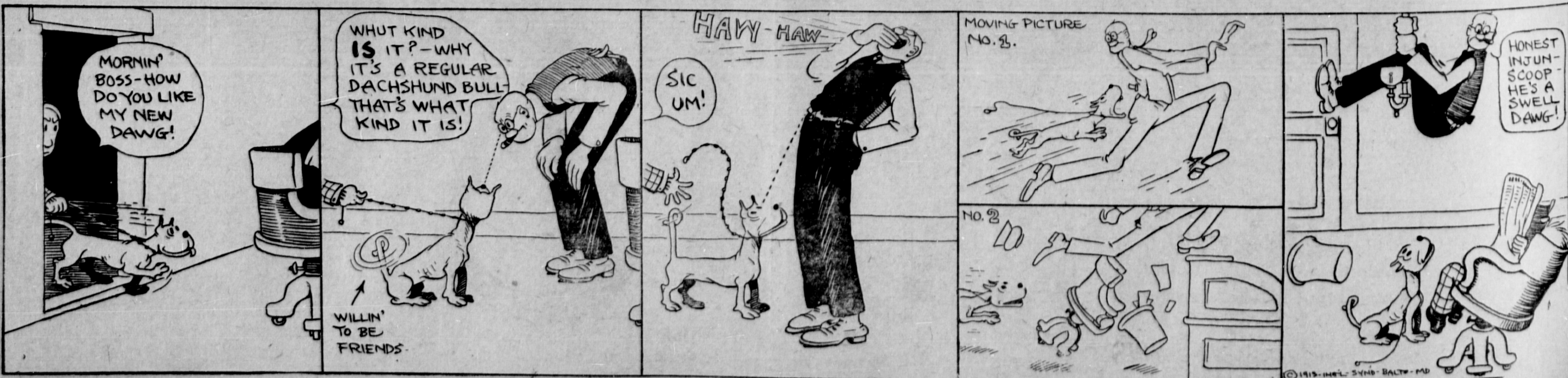
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Drawn for The Daily News by "Hop"



GENERAL

Gancee girls are going to sell papers in Vancouver for a Christmas charity fund.

The Provincial Government has plans out for a new museum building and a new printing office building. The estimated cost of each is a million dollars. Appropriations for these will be asked at the next session of the legislature is the financial outlook is favorable.



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