

THE DAILY NEWS

THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Published Daily and Weekly
Guaranteed Largest Circulation

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HEAD OFFICE

Daily News Building, 3rd Ave, Prince Rupert, B.C. Telephone 98.
TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates on application.

DAILY EDITION

Saturday, January 22, 1915.

EDITORIALS

Everything points to the fact that the end of the McBride government is near. They have squandered the resources of this province in such a way that not only is our credit gone but our very existence is threatened. To undo this tangle and restore credit and confidence in their province must be the task of men with constructive ideas. It will not do to send any more politicians to Victoria. We have had enough of that. The best men in the party are none too good. The task is herculean, and weak men will linger by the way-side. Neither will half measures avail, for the pledges of the party must be carried out to the very letter. It is therefore to be hoped that the party throughout the Province will take heed to this warning and not make the mistake the present government has done.

Whether the war will cause an advance toward the democratic ideal or a strengthening of class and caste privilege is a matter of earnest discussion among sociologists. Against the democratic ideal as held by Socialists and by advocates of individual freedom with land reform, there is the militarist and cast idea of strengthened privilege and autocracy either commercial or monarchical. The repudiation of Leibnecht, the German Socialist representative, by the Exchange Committee of his party is suggestive of the war's influence. He was an extremist and opposed the war.

Socialists have an advantage over the democrats, who hold a different ideal, for their policy of work for all, with equality of income, needs no explanation. They contend that, whatever nation pays the indemnity, the same men will lend the money. They point to the fact that Britain cannot now provide work for the Belgian refugees without displacing as many British workers—that the moral obligation not to let the Belgian refugees starve recalls the fact that the British worker is not regarded, in economic adjustments, with that much consideration. That war is the game of kings, often including kings of finance and industry, is also urged by the British Socialist leaders. But all these arguments receive as little attention in Britain as did the address of the repudiated Leibnecht in Germany. Class antagonism is forgotten in national antagonism, but there is no outlook for those who hope to prevent the return of class antagonisms, except through class abolition in the impossible dream of equality of incomes.

As to minor political changes, the outlook is uncertain. On the one hand, the war has forced a restriction of individual opinion, and the subordinating of all things to that despotism which is a military necessity. Military authority and military requirements must have first consideration. On the other hand, the sudden necessities of an unprecedented situation have revealed governmental and official helplessness, the incongruities of established conditions, the defects of existing systems and institutions, the failure of political, financial, commercial, and industrial organizations, and the abject helplessness of all when confronted with unemployment and want through excessive production. While war strengthens caste authority and class privilege, official and economic, it also exposes them to a severer criticism.—Toronto Globe.

QUAKE NOT VOLCANIC.

Vesuvius Not Unusually Active—Geological Quake, Says Authority.

Rome, Jan. 22.—Director Friedlander, of the International Volcanic Institute at Naples, says the origin of the recent earthquake is geological and not volcanic, with its epicentrum in the valley of the Garigliano River. The registration of the earthquake at the observatory lasted for forty seconds and was so violent that the needles broke.

Mount Vesuvius, according to the observers in that district, has shown no signs of unusual activity.



ECONOMIC UNREST WHEN WAR IS OVER

Time Will Be Required to Absorb the Returned Soldiers of Empire.

London, Jan. 23.—It is to be feared that there is in some quarters rather too light-hearted talk about a tremendous boom in trade immediately the war is over. While no doubt a period of general prosperity will eventually be enjoyed, there is reason to anticipate that the season directly following the cessation of hostilities will be one of profound unrest and difficulty in an economic sense. Trade and commerce the world over will require time to right themselves, for it is obvious that several million returned warriors can only gradually be absorbed again into peaceful vocations. This applies merely to those fortunate enough to come back bodily sound. The difficulty of providing for the disabled soldier is still more perplexing.

Lord Cheylesmore, president of the National Rifle Association, and chairman of the Soldiers and Sailors' Help Society, estimates that 38,000 of our men already have been wounded. The government's present pension scheme will give the wholly disabled man from 14 shillings to 23 shillings weekly. They will also receive 10 shillings weekly national insurance for six months, and five shillings weekly afterwards. The partially disabled man will get on an average 10s 6d weekly. It is this class of man who will need further carefully provided assistance. Lord Cheylesmore makes a special appeal for the Soldiers and Sailors' Help Society, which teaches disabled soldiers suitable trades. In nine years it has paid over 38,000 pounds in wages alone to such men, the great object being to make them independent and self-reliant instead of drifting into that type of derelict old soldiers who cringe for the casual charity of the careless public.

DIVISION COMMANDER PROUD OF PATRICIAS

Montreal, Jan. 23.—The Gazette's London correspondent in a cable dispatch has sent the following:

"General Snow, division commander, has sent special orders to Colonel Farquhar congratulating the Princess Patricia Regiment on the splendid way they took over the trenches from the French troops and maintained them under heavy artillery fire, thus keeping up the best traditions of the army."

On the behavior of the men under fire, Captain Culthert Smith, who was in command of No. 4 Company, said: "Never in my life have I seen men act so courageously. Regardless of bullets and shrapnel, the discipline was splendid."

HIGHWAY ALBERTA TO BOUNDARY IS URGED

Peace River Country Settlers Ask Provincial Government to Build Trunk Road.

Edmonton, Jan. 23.—In anticipation of the completion of the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway next autumn, representations are being made to the Provincial government by settlers resident in the western section of the Peace River block for roads and ferries to connect up the new line at Pousse Coupe, at the end of the line, on the boundary of the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. Mr. Thos. Jamieson, of Hudson's Hope, has just returned from Victoria, where he interviewed Sir Richard McBride and Hon. W. J. Bowser, Attorney General, and urged the claims of the northern district for transportation facilities.

Mr. Jamieson says that there are now about 900 settlers in the Peace River block, all of whom are anxiously awaiting the advent of transportation facilities. He says that the country is splendidly adapted for farming, large tracts of fine open prairie being available for settlement. The Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia line has now been built to Round Lake, 150 miles from the British Columbia boundary, and grading has been finished as far as Smoky River, another thirty miles west. The construction of a trunk highway from Pousse Coupe to Hudson's Hope, a distance of seventy-five miles, is desired, with a service of ferries to afford through communication with the railway when completed.

Two other railway lines are planned to tap the fertile regions of the Peace River country. The proposed extension of the P. G. E. from Fort George will afford through connections with the coast. Reconnaissance surveys were made last summer for the Pacific, Peace River & Athabasca Railway, the project with which Mr. D. A. Thomas, the Welsh coal magnate, is associated. The plans of the company call for the construction of a line from the mouth of the Naas River, through the Groundhog District, thence to the Findlay branch of the Peace River to Peace River Crossing. The proposed railway will touch at Hudson's Hope before swinging north to Vermilion and easterly to Prince Albert, the Prairie terminus.

Mr. Jamieson was informed by the Provincial executive that the request of the northern settlers would be given consideration and was directed to take up the question with Mr. J. A. Fraser, member for Cariboo, during the session of the Provincial Legislature.

Daily life is a university; the home is a college; the office, the factory, the farms are high schools, each with more courses than any university can offer.

The ability to pull the whiskers from old jokes is the best asset of the modern humorist.

It is easy enough to swear off once a year, but generally difficult to stay sworn.

BRITISH OPPOSITION BEING KEPT POSTED

Government Informs Law and Others of the Progress of War Arrangements.

London, Jan. 23.—Some discussion has lately proceeded in several quarters as to the likelihood of a leading member of the opposition being admitted formally to the councils of the Ministry. Such an idea may be at once dismissed as unadvisable and impractical. A little reflection will show that to rig up any semblance of a coalition at the present moment would create a disastrous impression in other countries and the results would not be advantageous to our prosecution of the war. A prominent politician, close to the ministerial head, gave us a private assurance the other day that the chief opposition leaders are as much acquainted with the professional calculations of the real prosecutors of the war as are the main body of the Cabinet.

Coincidence Proves It.

There certainly seems some ground for this statement when various incidents are regarded collectively. It may be remembered, for instance, that both Premier Asquith and Bonar Law expressed, the same day, the opinion that the war would not last as long as some people were disposed to think. Ostensibly they were merely expressing their own private, individual opinions, but it was at least a remarkable coincidence that such sentiments should proceed from the two leaders simultaneously. It may safely be stated that sober judgment of the situation, which is not concerned with filling newspaper columns, realizes that present day war conditions make it more than ever necessary to leave things in the hands of those charged with the direct conduct of operations, give them all the money and men and material they demand and await results.

MARRIAGE OF RECRUITS.

Statement by General Superintendent of Methodist Church

Toronto, Jan. 23.—Rev. Dr. Chown, general superintendent of the Methodist Church, has issued a statement on the question of the marriage of men already enlisted in the Canadian expeditionary force, in which he says:

"It is highly desirable that such marriages shall not interfere with the relation of the bridegroom to the army. You are aware that, according to present regulations, the wife has the privilege of withdrawing her husband from the forces. It would, therefore, be clear that a man, through his marriage, may be prevented from proceeding overseas. On this account I desire to urge that any of our ministers, before celebrating the marriage of any such soldiers, will see that the written permission be obtained from the bride for the bridegroom to fulfill the terms of his enlistment, and that the permission of the commanding officer is presented, in order to make the marriage altogether regular."

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