

THE DAILY NEWS

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

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

Tuesday, June 8, 1915.

THE BALTIC STRUGGLE.

Perhaps the most welcome of yesterday's encouraging war dispatches was that which reported that the German fleet had left the shelter of the Kiel Canal. To have read that it had engaged the British fleet in the North Sea would have been still more satisfactory; however, it is something to know that it has moved.

The Russians have been making things pretty warm around Libau lately, and, with Italy getting busy to the south, were liable to make things still livelier. If Italy's entrance into the struggle has helped to stir the German fleet into action it has done effective work already. If a few British submarines can worm their way into the Baltic in the next few days, it may become very interesting to the Germans. In the Mediterranean and the Dardanelles, British submarines have shown what they are capable of, and nothing would shake things up in Berlin so much as the loss of a few more battleships. Russia's naval strength in the Baltic is rather an unknown quantity, but it will not be surprising if she is able to regain some of the prestige which she lost in meeting the Japs.

If Holland and Denmark were to enter the lists on the side of the Allies now, it would facilitate matters considerably. Those little nations could do comparatively little fighting, but it would cut off an important source of supply for Germany; allow a close blockade of the River Scheldt; make for a combined land and sea attack on Antwerp, and allow British submarines to be transported over land to the Baltic.

If Holland and Denmark make the move, it will hasten the end of the war by months, and will ultimately be for the benefit of both countries, as anything approaching a Prussianized Europe will spell ruin to these small nations.

SECRET OF THE BOOTS.

Our political paradox, secrecy in public affairs, is

roundly and properly condemned by the Toronto Telegram, a staunch Conservative newspaper, in regard to the secret boot specification. There are hundreds of men in Toronto who would know at once whether boot specifications were right or wrong. Hon. A. E. Kemp, head of the Purchasing Commission, is not one of them, unless he has had some experience that has escaped his biographers. Yet he presumes to keep the people who furnish the money, whose interest is as deep as his own, and whose knowledge is far greater, in ignorance as to the specifications. One of the experts at the Parliamentary inquiry swore that leather built up of thin splits gummed together was better than genuine kip. It is not recorded that Hon. A. E. Kemp laughed when he heard or read it. He has given no such evidence of special knowledge. It is well that the vigorous condemnation of his secrecy, when everything is to be gained and nothing lost by publicity, has come from a newspaper politically favorable to his party. It frees criticism of the suspicion of party bias.

An excuse can be found for secrecy after the bogus boots were supplied. It would give an enemy a strategical advantage to know that our troops were poorly equipped in that regard. Such knowledge would have been as valuable as information regarding a shortage or defect in arms or ammunition. The weak spot in an army should always be concealed from the enemy, and if our men had gone at once to the front their weakness would have been an incapacity for marching owing to defective footwear. At the present stage there is no such excuse for secrecy. Publicity will reveal no secret to the enemy, but will avert the danger of developing something to conceal. Hon. A. E. Kemp is a man of recognized business ability. The public expects him to devote that ability to the public interest, and he can do so in



this regard only by full publicity. With regard to general secrecy in public affairs, it is the duty of the press to end it by making it intolerable to the public.—Toronto Globe.

City Council Notes

The residents on Donald Street, who want a sidewalk, are to be allowed to construct one, the city supplying the lumber.

The Board of Works reported to the Council last night that they have four unemployed horses. The Council decided that these be sold.

The City Council has decided to employ a salaried manager for the City Market, and that no commission agent will be allowed to sell in the market.

A letter was read at the City Council last night from J. R. Beatty asking for an increased water supply to the Provincial government wharf. The matter was referred to the Fishery Committee for report.

A request by the residents in Section Two for light and phone extensions was referred to the Light Committee at the Council meeting last night.

J. McAleenan has applied to the Council for permission to erect a refreshment stand at the Recreation Park. The Parks Committee agreed to grant permission provided the stand meets with their approval.

Some persons always seem to be groping in the darkness that precedes dawn.

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ALD. MONTGOMERY ASKS MORE QUESTIONS

The city clerk reported that he had been asked questions by Alderman Montgomery, and had handed them to the Mayor, who refused to answer them.

Alderman Montgomery pointed out that he did not ask the questions of the Mayor, but of the City Clerk. The questions were in relation to the cost of the Mayor's last trip, and the financial standing of the city.

Alderman Montgomery stated that he asked the questions in the public interest, as he thought the people ought to know how their money was being squandered in these hard times. He pointed out that the financial position of the city had been discussed all over the country, and the people ought to be told exactly how matters stand. If the adverse reports are untrue, the city solicitor should be instructed to take action.

Alderman Maitland remarked that the reports were both good and bad, and that the matter should not be discussed at present.

Alderman Montgomery asked if the Council intended to slide the matter over without making a report. He alleged that the report which appeared in The Empire was misleading and untruthful, and that it was up to the Council to tell the people the truth.

Alderman Edge said that Alderman Montgomery had been present at all the meetings and knew all the facts. The city has nothing to hide, and a public report will be made when the proper time comes.

Alderman Montgomery stated that when \$250 of the public funds had been spent, the people were entitled to know why and where it had been spent. He did not feel that he should beg or buy space from the newspapers in order to inform the public on matters which should be made public by the proper officials in the Council chamber. He remarked that if there is nothing to hide, it will serve no good purpose to keep it dark.

In reference to the reason for the Mayor's trip, Alderman Montgomery said that Alderman Edge had distinctly stated that they had got the Mayor out of the way until they put the financial deal through.

Alderman Edge denied having made such a statement.

Public meetings, Tuesday Thursday and Saturday at 8 p. m. Sundays at 7:30 p. m.

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Sounds Like It Was A Little Early To Swim

IT'S JUNE 1ST - I WONDER IF IT'S TOO COLD YET TO TAKE A SWIM.
OO-GUH-GOSH-IT FEELS AWFUL COLD-GEE-I GUESS I'LL WAIT TILL FIRST OF JULY.
OH GIRLS-HERE'S A LOVELY PLACE FOR OUR PICNIC.
WHAT WAS THAT? A FISH JUMPING-I GUESS.
ER-HUM-M-TH-TH-THERE'S S-SNAKES AN' EVERY TH-THING AROUND-D-D HERE GUH-G-GIRLS-IT'S A B-BUM PUH-P-PLACETO PUH-PIC-NIC

Drawn for The Daily News. --By "Hop."