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LOCAL PUPILS WRITE ESSAYS FOR THE NEWS

Creditable Work Done by Pupils
of Public Schools in Telling
of Their Own City.

BRIGHT THOUGHTS ARE EXPRESSED TERSELY

Many Ask for Better Play Grounds
and a Union of The
Churches.

On Friday the pupils of the High School and many of the boys and girls in the senior grades of the public schools were busy writing essays on a subject set by The Daily News, "Prince Rupert as it is today and as it might be."

So far the only essays examined have been those sent in by the pupils of the public school senior grades and these have been excellent. The penmanship has been good and all the work done neatly. The essays show that the pupils have a good idea how to group their ideas and to set them down on paper.

The Winner.

While all the papers have been read it will be necessary to go through a few of the better ones before making a final decision in regard to the prize winner, but probably by tomorrow this will have been done. The essay will be published in this paper and the winner awarded a suitable prize for the effort.

The High School papers will not be examined for a week or perhaps more, as there are over forty of them and some are of considerable length and all must be read carefully. An announcement will be made as soon as possible and the winning essays will be published.

All Optimists.

In going through the papers already examined, it is interesting to note that the children are optimists. There was, however, one exception. One pupil saw everything under a cloud and nothing was very good, while everything might have been much better if certain conditions had been better. With this solitary exception the boys and girls seemed to have great faith in the future of the city, although at the same time they had very decided ideas of improvements that might be made.

Church Union.

The question of church union seemed to have permeated rather deeply for a great many thought it would be better to have all the present church buildings scrapped and in place of them, as one well expressed it, "one big stone church with a pipe organ and choir." Another was keen on a pipe organ and chimes. One pupil ventures that the churches are not very flourishing and, therefore, not very beautiful to look at.

The need of a park with suitable shade trees was emphasized many times as well as better play-grounds for the schools. Speaking of the city of the future one enthusiast suggests: "It will have large parks with swings and slides and sand boxes for the children and a public library for the older people."

The ideal of another runs in another direction. It must be a boy this time who says "Theatres and opera houses will be built, skating rinks, gymnasiums, clubs and baseball teams will be established."

Mosquito Fleet.

A more practical young person opines that "A place for the fishing boats, commonly known as 'the mosquito fleet,' will be provided. This place will enable the fishermen to tie their boats in safety and stop them from taking their catches to Seattle."

Faith in the virtue of large cities is expressed by the young lady who said: "The climate cannot be classed as very good, because there is a plentiful rain-fall, but some of our nice days cannot be beaten even by large cities."

The People.

Of the people mention is made many times of the cosmopolitan population. The pupil who wrote, "The majority of the people are honest, industrious and hospitable" was probably using some stereotyped expression read in a geography or book of travel. The same will apply to the one who

said: "The people are of different races, white, yellow and red." As a matter of fact there are no red people here, the Indians who live here certainly having no trace of the coppery tinge which gave the name to the Indians of the prairies.

The young person who said, "The people are nearly all in good health and always boosting for the city" probably did not realize that health and hopefulness go together. His diagnosis was correct, however, for we have here both health and optimism as a general condition.

Economist.

An economist suggests: "Large quantities of salmon and halibut are caught, for which the inhabitants have to pay exorbitant prices," while another says: "There are three classes of fish, frozen, fresh and canned."

It was probably a slap at the local organs when the youngster said: "Prince Rupert may some day have a nice daily paper, such as Vancouver has."

A statistician says that there are ninety acres of land in the city set aside for parks and play-grounds, while a sympathizer with the oppressed tells that the only religious denomination that is not allowed here is the Russel-ites.

Aeroplane Factory.

That Prince Rupert would make an ideal spot for an aeroplane factory is a generally expressed opinion but boating comes in for little mention. There is also no mention of the fact that all the public services such as telephone, light, power and water are municipally owned.

The influence of the Japanese current was mentioned only once and then the information was given that the Japanese name for it was "Kuro Shiwa."

The pupil had been among the boosters who said that "Many of the people are full of optimistic vim," and she among the oppo-
nents who remarked: "When it does rain many wonderful plants are watered. In truth the climate is very healthy, being so near the sea."

The papers were all very interesting and instructive.

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