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PRINCE RUPERT

The climate, industries and social conditions together with a prophesy as to the future.

First Prize Essay in the Daily News High School Contest, by Caroline Mitchell, aged 16.

On a little island five and one half miles long and three miles wide just north of the fifty-fourth parallel the city of Prince Rupert nestles. This location was chosen owing to its fronting a great natural harbor, fourteen miles long, with deep water, good anchorage and devoid of tidal currents. The site is not deep as it terminates against a high ridge of mountains about two miles in a direct line from the waterfront.

Prince Rupert, the Northern Metropolis of British Columbia, is the western terminus of a great railway, namely the Grand Trunk Pacific, and the veritable front door to the Yukon and Alaska. This city is the centre of the North Pacific fisheries, which industry is considered the finest in the world. A six-storey concrete is situated at Seal Cove, and about a mile northeast from the city.

Climate.

The climate of Prince Rupert is similar to that of Vancouver or London—mild, humid and invigorating. It differs from Vancouver—its rival—in that it has an almost entire absence of fogs. In summer the temperature never rises above eighty degrees or even in the coldest time in winter does it scarcely reach zero.

Industries.

The chief industries which are carried on around Prince Rupert are fishing, lumbering, agriculture and mining. The fisheries is an extensive trade from which our city greatly profits. Immense catches of halibut, salmon, herring and black cod are landed at its wharves and besides the cold storage plant there are four separate companies, the Atlin, Booth, San Juan and Royal fisheries.

Lumber.

In our city there are two lumber companies, the Prince Rupert and Georgetown. The Prince Rupert Lumber Co. has secured most of its logs from the Queen Charlotte Islands and Simpson Bay and has shipped many a car load of lumber to the old country during the past four years. The topography of the neighboring country is mountainous and heavily timbered with spruce, hemlock, cedar, larch and other varieties of evergreens, but of these spruce has been in greatest demand.

Fertile Valleys.

The agricultural possibilities of the fertile valleys of the Skeena, Naas and Bulkley Rivers cannot be over estimated. These districts which are variously adapted for the production of fruits, vegetables and grain have not been cultivated to the same extent as they might have been, so as yet agriculture is not such an important industry as the others.

Mining.

At Granby Bay there are large copper mines and a huge smelter which has just been built recently and copper is found in large quantities at Rocher de Boule mines. Silver and gold is very extensive in Stewart and from that point via Prince Rupert over two hundred and fifty tons have been shipped to Tacoma and Trail. Large coal mines are being developed at Telkwa and already many earloads have been shipped out to the various points.

Education.

The educational facilities of Prince Rupert are just as good as in any other city. We have one high school, which at present occupies three rooms of the Borden Street Public School; there is also another public school situated at Seal Cove and also one on Seventh Avenue; moreover on account of the overcrowded schools a class or two are being taught in the Hays Block.

Merchandise.

In the business section of the town various banks have their branches established. Among these are: The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Bank of Montreal, Union Bank, and the Royal Bank of Canada.

The business district of Prince Rupert is one worthy of any city, and is marked by beautiful store fronts, prettily dressed windows and full shelves. It is a well known fact that no man has failed who had a knowledge of his business and sufficient capital at the outset. This city, being the front door of commerce to the Yukon and all northern British

Columbia carries on a large trade with these countries rich in lumber, minerals and other natural products. Already many keen business men have established themselves for taking care of this trade and we have wholesale houses well equipped with large stocks to do business in all lines. Among those established here are Kelly, Douglas & Co., Ltd., Stewart & Mobley, F. G. Dawson, Ltd., and G. W. Nickerson & Co.

Social Conditions

The social condition of our city is something concerning which we have a great deal of criticism. There is little or no provision made for healthy recreation or amusement for either young or old—there are few places for the homeless youth to spend the evening. If there was an up-to-date Y. M. C. A. in our city with a gymnasium, swimming pool and library combined, it would be very helpful to the young people of Prince Rupert.

Religious life.

The religious life of the community is looked after by the churches of the various denominations. Much good is done by these institutions in counteracting the evil of our city, but perhaps still more could be done if all these churches were united and were working together at the same problems.

Faith in City.

Many of the large cities started with a more doubtful outlook than Prince Rupert did and so as long as her citizens have faith in her she is bound to rise and become one of the leading cities on the coast. Her position, her industries, resources, trade and commerce all are helping to build up the town.

Near Orient.

Prince Rupert is several hundred miles nearer the Orient than any other sea port on the coast and is particularly suited as the entrepot of business from Siberia, China and Japan. This nearness to the ports of the Orient makes it capable to ship silk and other valuable cargoes quicker than by any other route. This town being surrounded by a country rich in natural resources will be able to provide cargoes for steamers operating from this port and in time will become the shipping point and market for farmers between here and the Rocky Mountains.

Development in Sight.

During the reconstruction period a great deal of lumber will be shipped through Prince Rupert to be used in building up European cities. This industry will increase and a great many more men will be required. Again the fisheries will, in a short time, be finding new markets, one of the chief exports from Prince Rupert to the Orient will be fish.

Shipbuilding.

The drydock and ship building plant which is to commence work some time in the near future will make great changes. Thousands of men will be engaged in this work and as a result many men will start in business; no one will hesitate to invest their money and all will be lively and bright.

Perhaps, when that day comes there will be some sort of playgrounds and a place where children can go and spend their leisure hours without seeing all the evil and vice of the street life.

Shipping.

Everything is in favor of Prince Rupert's progress—she will be connected with the eastern points by means of an aeroplane service and with the Oriental points by means of mighty steamers sailing every day from our port. It is also planned to ship the majority of the output from Swanson Bay and Ocean Falls through Prince Rupert and as this includes large shipments of paper, lumber and pulp, the prosperity of the town will be increased a great deal.

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