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## In the Letter Box

### RENT PROFITEERS

The Editor Daily News:

I wish to enter a strong protest through the columns of your paper against what I consider the outrageous profiteering carried on by certain landlords in Prince Rupert. I am quite cognizant of the fact, and I wish to state this at the outset, that there has not merely been a diminution in the supply of dwelling houses, but practically an absolute cessation of all building operations.

The necessities of war called our man-power from peaceful pursuits to fulfill the more urgent demands of the conflict. Consequently there was a double flow of men and materials from the needs of peace to the needs of war. The reaction was strongest in the construction of homes, the erection of which was rendered impossible from both patriotic and economic standpoints. Add to this the natural trend of people to our towns and cities, and the cause of the scarcity of dwelling houses becomes apparent. We know that some landlords have "waiting lists" containing many names of those desiring rentals of apartments. The landlords—there are exceptions, I am glad to say here in Rupert—are making the most of an unfortunate economic condition. They are demanding high rents, because they know that in the majority of cases the tenant is powerless to do anything but submit.

### Specific Case.

I now wish to state my case, that the public may see how a certain class make use of this situation to enrich themselves at the expense of the public.

Yesterday a received notice that the rent for my flat, far from modern, situated over the office of Westenhaver Bros., was to be increased 100 per cent from July 1st, and Mr. Westenhaver had the cool effrontery to dictate as to how the hundred per cent increase was to be met. He advised taking in boarders. Imagine a mother with three young children in a flat comprising three bedrooms, a sitting room, a dining room and a kitchen, being obliged to take in boarders, so as to be able to put an exorbitant rent each month in the pocket of Mr. Westenhaver, who, true to the tradition of the absentee landlord "draws his rent in Rupert, but spends it elsewhere."

Some days ago I sent a courteous letter to Mr. Westenhaver asking him to make a few small necessary improvements, and he replied in a manner as rude as his English and grammar were poor that "if I was not satisfied to get out."

Is it any wonder, when such profiteering is allowed to go on that so much discontent is rife? The vultures of greed and graft prey on the defenceless and enrich themselves at the expense of those who are the victims of the economic condition resulting from the war.

### Should be Curbed.

A tenant has to submit to any and all increases in rent, for he knows that he has no choice in the matter, but pay or vacate. The landlords are certainly making the most of the situation, for they know that if a tenant will not pay the high rent, another will. It is this type of landlord, whose activities should be curbed, this type of unscrupulous owner or lessee who takes advantage of the economic situation to gouge the tenant and make big profit out of

## Daily News Classified Advertising

### WANTED.

WANTED—Girl or woman for housework. Apply Mrs. W. E. Williams, Borden Street. Phone Black 158. tf

WANTED—Furnished house or rooms suitable for light house-keeping. Apply box 257, Daily News office. 126

Bring your furs to Goldbloom, Third Avenue. He pays highest price. tf

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the necessities of the people. And there are many at present using these methods.

New York landlords are proverbial for their profiteering, and lately a cry was raised, when some of them raised their rents 25 and 50 per cent. But Rupert has a landlord who goes one better and increases his one hundred per cent. Is it not high time that some kind of administrator be appointed with authority to review the acts of the landlords pertaining to increase of rentals? At present the tenant is the victim of unscrupulous vampire-sucking profiteers, and, if the tenant seeks to combat this unwarranted action and declines to pay, he receives notice to vacate the premises and if the matter is taken to the courts the tenant is told to pay or move. As a result the tenant is bound down between the upper and nether millstone.

### Government Action.

I somehow feel that this is a matter that might well be taken up by the Government. Other matters pertaining to the necessities of life have been taken up by the Government and why not rentals? The nature of the house, the service it renders, the nature of the locality, the investment of the landlord, the taxes he pays are all determining factors, which could easily be considered in coming to a decision as to what rent should be charged.

Is it not time to call a halt to profiteering so flagrant? Here is a question that should concern all who rent dwelling houses in Prince Rupert. Some concerted action is necessary. Let us strike the iron while it is hot and bring this high rental policy to a show-down. Then the honest owner who looks at the tenant's side of things and who demands a fair profit on his investment will get encouragement rather than censure, but let the money-grabbing plethoric profiteer be relegated out of society as an unclean thing.

JAMES C. BRADY.

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## DENTISTRY

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Office: Smith Block, Third Avenue.  
Phone 454.

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FOR SALE—10 acres at nominal rent for ten years. Spiller wharf, Porcher Island—Ed. H. Mortimer. 133

FOR SALE—House and lot in Section 6, one block from McBride. A genuine bargain. Enquire 212 8th Avenue, East. 127

FOR SALE—Large Taylor safe in good condition. Phone 76. tf

FOR SALE—160 acres of good land in Kispixox valley. Lot 1563 Cassiar. State your own price. Write E. Stockland, P. O. box 491 Prince Rupert, B. C. 34

FOR SALE—88 acres of land, house and barn, about ten acres cleared, at U.S. Price \$6,000. Andrew Pete. 127

FOR SALE—Furniture, including crockery and glassware. Scoble, 2 Clapp Block. 126

### LOST

LOST—Between St. Elmo and St. Andrew's Hall, diamond stone from ring. Finder please return to room 10 St. Elmo. 30

### FOUND

FOUND—Bunch of keys belonging to A. O. Johnson. Apply Daily News office.

FOUND—Bunch of Yale keys. Apply Daily News office.

FOUND—Purse with sum of money. Apply Daily News. tf

### ARCHITECTS

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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### REAL ESTATE

WILL PAY CASH FOR YOUR LOTS. Apply P. O. box 606. tf

We put pep into our printing business at The News Print Shop.

### NOTICE

N THE MATTER OF THE WOODMAN'S LIEN ACT AND AMENDING ACTS AND IN THE MATTER OF AN ACTION IN THE COUNTY COURT OF ATLIN HOLDEN AT PRINCE RUPERT

Between:  
LAURITS E. STROME, Plaintiff,  
And  
T. A. KELLEY LOGGING AND LUMBER COMPANY LIMITED, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE that His Honor Judge F. McR. Young has appointed Friday, the thirtieth day of May, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House at Prince Rupert, B. C., as the day upon which all persons claiming a lien on the logs or timber of the above named Defendant shall appear in person, or by their Solicitors or Agents before the said Judge for the adjustment of their claims and the settlement of their accounts.  
Dated at Prince Rupert, B. C., this 14th day of May, 1919.  
W. E. BURRITT, Registrar.

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Naas River Points, Friday a.m.

Jack Barnsley, General Agent

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BY GENE BYRNES

