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THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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H. F. PULLEN, Managing Editor.

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DAILY EDITION

Monday, Nov. 13, 1922.

Times Are Dull But Business Sound.

Things are dull, writes H. F. Pullen, editor of the Daily News, who is in Victoria. That is the usual opinion expressed everywhere. It means that there is no special improvement recently and that a good many people are living, as they always are, on expectations. This is true in Vancouver and Victoria and what is true there is true throughout the province, according to report.

While it is true that Victoria and Vancouver are not so busy as they might be, yet business there is on a pretty sound basis. In Victoria, which I have seen more than Vancouver, the stores are all occupied. Some small places which had been disused for years are now made over and the people using them seem to be doing some business.

Residences all seem to be occupied here and a number of new ones are going up. There are also a few business places being erected, all of which looks well. Coming in here as an outsider, I should say that the outlook was never so healthy here as it is today. Victoria is capitalizing her climate, which is the right thing for her to capitalize. She may or may not become an industrial centre, but she certainly will prosper on account of her climate, which is what many other places, including Los Angeles, is capitalizing.

What They Think Of Prince Rupert.

The notoriety given Prince Rupert by the leader of the opposition in the legislature and by H. H. Stevens in Vancouver has given the idea everywhere that Prince Rupert is a very wicked city. She is looked on somewhat as the Sodom and Gomorrah of British Columbia, judging from the remarks heard everywhere in regard to her. It is a passing cloud that will clear away before the rays of the sun but in the meantime it might be well for the Prince Rupert Board of Trade to take some action in regard to it and get the findings of the board published abroad, especially in Vancouver and Victoria. It is not always wise to sit down under an imputation of that kind. It is probable that Prince Rupert is not any more wicked than Vancouver or any other place. Life and property are just as safe there, and there is very little crime as has been shown by the police records for several years past.

This City To Be Reckoned With.

While Prince Rupert has an unsavory reputation as the result of political activities of those opposed to the ministers from the north and those jealous of the position of the northern port, there is also a feeling, which lies deeper than the other, that there is a great future in store for Prince Rupert and that she is a power to be reckoned with in the near future. While nobody has any very definite idea of how Rupert is to prosper and what will be responsible for the progress of the future, they all are looking to see things happen in the north. This attitude is reflected in an eagerness for information. It is shown in the prominence given Prince Rupert affairs by such newspapers as the Vancouver Province. There is none of that effort to belittle the city and the north generally which formerly was felt by those visiting the south.

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MR. PATTULLO IN LEGISLATURE

Many Important Subjects Dealt
With in Speech by Local
Member Last Week

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands and member for Prince Rupert, made an exhaustive but comprehensive address on provincial questions before the legislature last week. In part it follows:

One of the biggest outstanding questions is the future of the P. & G. E. Of this future a very gloomy view has been taken by many people. During the past year the government caused a report to be made by three men well known in the railroad world. The report made by Mr. Sullivan particularly is of a discouraging character and would not appear to justify the optimism of the promoters and the administration which caused the undertaking. I am offering no defence of those responsible for the beginning of the undertaking, yet I very much incline to the opinion that Mr. Sullivan did not have sufficient time to make such personal examinations as were necessary to pass finality of judgment upon so large and important issue. I incline to think that a very considerable portion of his information was of a second-hand character and not so authoritative as it should be.

While I do not propose at this juncture to define any attitude in respect of the railway I would point out that there is upon the people of this province a responsibility to the people served by the P. & G. E. and to those who relied upon its completion to Prince George.

University Question

Another question of very great importance and magnitude is that of the provincial university. I think that it will be generally admitted that the establishment of a university in B.C. was premature. Our population is not sufficiently large to provide all the requisite facilities by way of buildings and upkeep and the number of faculties which once a university is started seem essential to the fulfilment of its highest purposes. There is no doubt that the public wants no further taxation and without passing finality of opinion I should say that the most careful investigation should be made to see how far the lands in Point Grey especially set aside for University purposes can be utilized to finance the undertaking.

Forest Protection

I come now to discuss the question of forest protection from the ravages of fire. The past year has brought it home to everyone in the province as they never realised before the terrible havoc that can be wrought by the devastation of forest fires.

It has probably been the worst in the history of the province yet it may well be that it will serve a useful purpose in bringing to the attention of the people of the province the importance of vigilance by the people themselves and unsparing support to the work of the department in coping with the common enemy, fire. As legislation will be introduced at this session dealing with this question I need not upon this occasion go into the detail that I otherwise would. Public opinion will, I believe, support drastic legislation. There exists in the minds of a number of people a belief that some fires have been of incendiary origin.

I am glad to say to the House that considering world conditions and general business conditions, the timber industry outlook is very hopeful. It will be recalled that one of the difficulties in this province has been the spasmodic and fitful periods of prosperity enjoyed by the timber industry. For many years past there would be a short period of fair business followed by a longer period of depression.

Organisation Necessary

When I first assumed charge of the Department of Lands under which is the Forest Branch I came to the conclusion that lack of organization in the industry and consequent lack of pushing effort was considerably responsible. During the time that I was in the decreasing business of the industry, especially in our off-shore trade and upon several occasions, in addressing public bodies, I expressed the opinion that the industry would never be stabilized until we could be reasonably

sure each year of a continued and continuous business through the medium of an export trade. The opportunity came to render signal service when through governmental effort an order for some 70 million feet was obtained from Great Britain. Upon that occasion the timber men were called together and an organization was created which has done as much export business as was formerly done by the whole province and was the beginning of a general co-operation in the industry which has resulted in getting the benefit of the strength of unity and placing the industry in a position to cope with the many external problems to be met in the conduct of an off-shore trade.

Immigration

I come now to a problem upon which there has existed and still exists a very wide divergence of opinion, namely that of immigration. Less than two years ago it was difficult to talk immigration upon any basis without running counter to a well if ill defined public opinion. Today there is still a very strong opinion against any form of immigration except that of agriculturalists.

Last year and again this year I visited Great Britain in connection with this and other matters and I may tell my friend the member for Esquimalt that the Burlington Arcade has sadly retrograded since the time when he first frequented it and is comparatively respectable.

I believe that there is in this country a well defined feeling that in any immigration policy there should be as large proportion as possible of immigrants of Anglo-Saxon origin. I believe that there exists a general feeling that if we are to maintain in their integrity what are called British traditions it is desirable that a proportion of our population shall be of British extraction. In this expression of desire to maintain our British traditions there is contained not the slightest reflection upon any other nationality. These other nations cherish their own traditions. Doubtless they think them superior to British traditions. It is not impossible that they may be, nevertheless it is natural that we shall treasure our own institutions. I do not think it possible however to obtain in one year from Britain even under a generous policy the number of settlers which in my judgment at all events, Canada can readily absorb annually, and therefore it will be necessary for us to go to other countries.

More Aggressive Policy

The government of this province has not sought to encourage other than agricultural immigration except such as might be incidental to the encouragement of the establishment of industries but I am referring to direct effort. My personal opinion however, is that Canada should pursue a much more aggressive policy than has been for some time.

I recently made the statement that I felt sure Canada could readily absorb 300,000 immigrants a year and that I believed every mentally and physically healthy immigrant of white nationality should be admitted. This statement has been interpreted by some to mean a hodge podge of entirely unregulated immigration. There are always those who are looking for the very worst construction which they can put both upon language and action and who attribute to others a lack of common sense which as applied to themselves they would indignantly resent. The statement I made still stands in a reasonable interpretation. For instance, I would not think it well to admit three hundred thousand and all of one nationality unfamiliar with our institutions.

The Minister of the Interior who is in immediate charge for the Dominion was not in Ottawa when I came through, but when discussing with him the matter in the spring he informed me that he intended to call a conference of the provinces and the Dominion in order to arrive at a line of common action. Until therefore we know just what the Dominion proposes to do, I do not think it would be well for us to close any special or general undertaking with the British authorities.

Industrial Development

During the time that I was in England I also took up a number of matters looking to industrial development in the province and at the present time there are several concerns that are looking into the possibilities of investing in enterprise here. Yet while this



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