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VOL. XIII., NO. 38. PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1923. Yesterday's Circulation 1568 Street Sales 918. PRICE FIVE CENTS

MORNING BLAZE DESTROYS ROUNDHOUSE

COLONEL McMORDIE RECITES DETAILS OF THE BOOTH SCHOOL BUILDING

Round House Totally Destroyed by Fire This Morning but not Much Damage to the Machinery

The old Canadian National Railway roundhouse, which has been in use ever since trains started to operate along the line of railway out of here, was completely destroyed by fire which broke out at 6.55 this morning and swept the building before any fighting measures could be brought to play on the conflagration. The damage was confined practically to the destruction of the round house, although two locomotives were somewhat scorched and a few small tools were lost. Fanned by the strong southeast wind which was blowing at the time, the blaze took hold of the oil saturated building in short order and the place was soon a-mass of flames.

The entire city fire department was on the scene shortly after the fire was noticed and did great work in getting the hose pipes to the scene under considerable difficulties because of the inaccessibility of the shops. It was necessary to string the hose lines from First and Second Avenues down through the stumps and frozen muskeg of the hill side and the water supply in the yards was also tapped. However, it was immediately apparent that the building could not be saved and efforts were concentrated on preventing a spread of the blaze and protecting property and equipment in the immediate vicinity.

Much Was Saved

Railway officials this morning said they considered it fortunate that no more extensive damage was occasioned than was actually done. Lathes and working machinery were not much damaged, the fire not being hot enough for that. The stores and neighboring shops were all saved.

The details of the origin of the fire had not been definitely ascertained by the officials of the company this morning. The watchman of the building reported that he was outside at the time the fire commenced. It started near the boiler and had a good start before it was noticed.

Insure Service

N. B. Walton, superintendent, stated this morning that enough engines had been pulled out to insure both freight and passenger train service against any delays. The management of the railway in the East was immediately notified.

Pending rebuilding of a roundhouse here, heavy repairs to locomotives and rolling stock will have to be made at the Pacific and Smithers shops while ordinary running work will be done here as usual under makeshift conditions. The service will not be affected, Mr. Walton stated.

The superintendent declined to make any estimate as to the value of the damage. It is understood, however, that it will not exceed $50,000 at the outside, the buildings having been old and of little value. The property was covered with insurance.

Between unreeling of the hose lines, extinguishing the fire and reeling the lines up again, the fire departmet was kept busy to a man pretty well all morning.

Fire Chief's Statement

Fire Chief McDonald stated this morning that the fire started on the roof of the roundhouse above the boiler. It was first noticed by Mr. Gordon who turned in the alarm. There was no pressure from the railway hose and two lines were strung out from the city's hydrants on First and Second Avenues, about 2000 feet of hose being used. The fire was one of the most difficult the department has had to deal with on account of the inaccessibility of the building and the coldness of the weather.

In point of damage, the fire was the biggest in the history of the city, according to the fire chief who said the damage might reach $100,000. The value of the building does not amount to much but there is a great deal of machinery and equipment involved, some of this being damaged.

Fire Chief McDonald mentioned the valuable assistance given in fighting the fire by Ald. Currie, one of the city's ex-volunteer firemen. All the fire engines were called out including the Ford truck which approached the conflagration along the railroad track.

MAN SHOT SELF FIRST AVENUE

Robert Corner Took His Own Life; Been Acting in Strange Manner

WAS GHASTLY TRAGEDY

Used Carbine Rifle After Saying Goodbye to Friends

Shooting himself through the forehead at 11:55 this morning in his room at Lena Silver's house, 921 First Avenue West, Robert Corner, aged between 50 and 60 years, took his own life in one of the most gruesome suicide cases ever known in the city.

According to the report of the police, Corner had been talking a few minutes before the tragedy with Mrs. Lena Silver and John Burns on the first floor of the building. Deceased had been acting strangely and just before he left for his room he said "Goodbye." Little heed was paid to his remark until a few minutes later a shot was heard.

Dr. Tremayne and the city police were immediately called. Dr. Tremayne was the first to arrive and he broke in the door which deceased had locked. Chief Walkers arrived immediately after the chief reported the tragedy as of the most ghastly he had ever seen, deceased's head being blown to pieces with the 30-30 carbine, the weapon which had been used. The coroner was notified and an inquest will likely be held. As far as known, Corner was a single man although it is believed he has relatives on the Queen Charlotte Islands. He was at one time a watchman at Seal Cove.

LARGE CONSIGNMENT FURS FROM NORTH

EDMONTON, Feb. 14.—What is believed to be the largest consignment of furs from the north has been purchased here during the week by Robert A. Allish for a sum roughly approximating $46,000, the shipments being from Fort Chipewyan, and representing the fall trade of Hamdon and Ally and Tom Woodman.

The following is a list of the peltries. Muskrat 26,000, red fox 239, cross fox 106, marten 57, ermine 606, skunk 108, mink 317, lynx 16, wolf 15, bear 5, and silver fox 13.

On these furs a tax of over $2,000 was paid to the provincial government and Mr. Allish resents recent statements made to the effect that the traders are trying to evade these payments. The fur dealer states that every trader without exception has this winter notified the government of the arrival of fur and paid the regulation tax on the pelts.

LORD'S DAY PEOPLE ACTIVE IN WINNIPEG

Dr. Rochester Opposes Sunday Excursion Bill on Behalf of Alliance

WINNIPEG, Feb. 14.—Declaring the Manitoba Lord's Day act was ultra vires, and in his opinion therefore the amendments, as proposed in the Sunday Excursion bill of John Queen could not, even though permissive in character, be legally operative, Rev. Dr. William Rochester, Dominion secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, vigorously protested against the passing of the measure before the law amendments committee.

Dr. Rochester added that if the king's bench still thought the amendment were intro vires in the province, his organization would consider appealing from this decision to the highest courts in the empire. In reply to a question, however, from W. McKinnell, member for Rockwood Dr. Rochester stated that in his opinion the running of Sunday trains to the beaches was not illegal. That even if the trains were run were those of the schedules throughout the week, including the Saturday services, this would be permissive so long as they were not "excursions" operated as such and advertised as such.

TAYLOR HAS OPTION DOLLY VARDEN MINE

Will Make Effort to Sell Alice Arm Property But Will Not Work it

ALICE ARM, Feb. 14.— Information has been received here to the effect that the Taylor Mining Co. has secured an option for one year from George Wingfield and associates to sell the Wolf and Dolly Varden mines. Mr. Wingfield recently foreclosed a mortgage against the Taylor Mining Co. on the property. The Taylor Co. has no authority to work the property but merely an option to sell. It thus seems doubtful if the mine will be operated at all this year.

ERECT NEW BRIDGE

ALICE ARM, Feb. 14. — J. A. Stephen, assistant district engineer for the provincial government, is expected here next week to select a site for the new Kitsault River bridge.

LABOR COUNCIL HOLDS SESSION

Discusses Number of Questions Having to do With Workers and Their Problems

At last night's meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, Alderman Macdonald gave a report of work being carried on by the Provincial Executive in their efforts to secure beneficial Labor legislation. Steps will be taken in an effort to have loggers and sawmill workers employed through the established government employment agencies instead of through the B.C. Loggers' Association as it is alleged is now often done. When this effort becomes successful all camps on Graham Island for example will be supplied from the Prince Rupert office.

Thanks for Hansard

The secretary was instructed to thank Fred Stork, M.P., for again suplying Hansard to the Trades and Labor Council. In future all members or others borrowing sections of this Hansard will be required to give a receipt for same and will be held responsible for its return.

Immigration was brought up in a communication received. The general discussion recommended careful selection and conservative methods. It was pointed out that Canada at present appeared to serve only as a training school. Men came, learned and then left.

The Legislative Committee reported that the January issue of the Labor Gazette indicated a slight increase in cost of living according to the family budget. Attention was also called to the effort being made in Vancouver by some trades to raise the scale to that prevailing in Seattle and other points across the line.

PRINCE GEORGE WAS IN SEATTLE STORM

Bows Sheathed With Ice When She Came Into Port This Morning

Her bows sheathed with ice below the guards, the G.T.P. steamer Prince George, Capt. D. Donald, arrived at 12 o'clock today from Vancouver and wayports. The George was in the gale which swept the Seattle waterfront last Sunday but sustained no damage. While making the run between Victoria and Seattle, an Alberta moving picture outfit took some ocean liner scenes on board for a play that is being produced.

A dirty cold trip with strong head winds was reported coming up the coast.

SITE IS CHOSEN FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDING TO BE ERECTED ANYOX

ANYOX, Feb. 14.— Anyox is to have new government buildings. A site has been selected between Recreation Hall and the Bank of Commerce and tentative plans have been drawn. These provide for quarters for the government agent and also for the provincial policeman, and include a lockup.

NO FISH SALES

There were no fish sales today. The Pioneer came in with 12,000 pounds of halibut and is being held over for the sale tomorrow when others are expected.

IMPORTANT DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS ON STEAMER VENTURE

The Union steamer Venture, Capt. Andy Johnstone, was in port from 3 to 6 yesterday afternoon en route to Vancouver from Anyox, Alice Arm and Naas and Skeena River cannery points. Capt. Johnstone reported very cold weather up Observatory Inlet and in the Skeena River. There were also heavy gales which were of such velocity that they swept the ice out of Alice Arm and the Skeena River which had been frozen over.

The Venture is lying up for a fortnight when she arrives at Vancouver on Thursday night, and will be replaced by the Chelohsin, Capt. Stacey, for the run north on Friday night out of Vancouver. The holiday will be appreciated by at least two of the navigating officers of the vessel on account of recent domestic developments of importance. J. D. McPhee, the pilot of the Venture, was married two weeks ago in Vancouver to Miss Lillian Marrs, of North Pacific, but the second officer, J. Macolinson, is twice blessed. Last week he became the father of twins, a boy and a girl.

ELECTRONIC SYSTEM AT VANCOUVER NOW

Dr. Ernest Hall Gives up General Practice to Devote More Time to Work

The electronic system of treatment, as practised by Dr. Abrams of San Francisco, is gaining vogue in this province. Dr. Ernest Hall of Victoria has joined forces with his brother, Dr. T. P. Hall of Vancouver, in developing the work on a large scale in Vancouver and has turned his Victoria residence into an electronic hospital under the management of Dr. Shaw, formerly surgeon of the s.s. Makura. In Vancouver the new treatment is given at 1301 Davie St. where, as well as at Victoria, the latest electronic instruments and apparatus have been installed.

Dr. Hall has given up general practice in order to devote his time to this work, to diseases of women and to surgery.

SIMPSON GLEE CLUB VISITS KINCOLITH AND GIVES CONCERT

PORT SIMPSON, Feb. 14.—The glee club of the Young People's Educational Association have returned from an excursion to Kincolith where they gave a vaudeville concert in Jubilee Hall last Thursday. There was a large attendance at the entertainment to listen to the splendid program provided by the visitors.

A dance followed the concert and first class dance music was supplied for the occasion by Messrs. Stewart and Ward of Kincolith. The chief councillor gave a reception on the arrival of the visitors.

THERMOMETER RISES STEADILY TODAY

The meteorological station here in charge of H. O. Crewe reports that the thermometer this morning registered six above zero early this morning. Since that time the city thermometers have been steadily rising until they reached about 20 degrees at the time of going to press.

Statement by McMordie on School Contract and His Relation Thereto

Colonel McMordie has handed the Daily News a statement in which he deals with his connection with the Booth School, showing that the responsibility for the failure of the building is not his and that he simply acted under instructions in any work he did. He further shows that of the large profit he was supposed to have made he actually received only a comparatively small part after paying out the amounts necessary in carrying out his duties. The letter in full follows:

Editor Daily News:

The Booth Memorial School has been the subject of much controversy during the past year, and since there now appears to be little chance of having an investigation before a properly constituted court I feel obliged to make the following statement and explanation.

Four years ago, when the question of building a permanent school in the city was first mooted, there was much criticism and opposition. The first site selected by the School Board was criticized and not approved. Even after the contract was let, and the building partially erected, an appeal was made to Court to have the work stopped, but was not successful. When the building was finally completed, and it was found that moisture was coming through the walls, criticism was again made, and while some of it was undoubtedly merited, the diabolical propaganda of criticism directed against the school, the school board, and everyone in any way connected with the construction of the school was not justified.

Only One Tender

Plans and specifications for the construction of the school were prepared by J. W. Potter, architect, of this city, and tenders were duly and widely advertised. At this time the price of all materials was soaring and labor conditions were very unsettled. Consequently only one tender was received, and this tender was from a local firm, and was figured by myself. The amount asked for the construction of the school in this tender was $198,900.00. This price was low, and I have personal knowledge of two other contractors, who figured the work about $225,0000.00, but who did not put in tenders, on account of the very unsettled conditions.

The School Board thought the tender was high, and decided to do the work on a percentage basis, awarding the contract to me. By the terms of my contract with the Board, I was to receive four per cent on $70,863.00 being the amount of tenders for portions of the work, which they had received and which I took over and ten per cent on $99,137.00. If the cost of the school exceeded $170,000.00, I was to receive no per centage on any cost above that figure.

Outlined Policy

I outlined the policy which I proposed to follow in building this school. I advised buying material at once, as costs were still rising, and sub-letting the actual work wherever possible. This policy was approved by the Board.

My contract required me to build the school according to the plans and specifications, and under the supervision of the architect. I was to supply the plant, and furnish the necessary money to carry on the work. The only additional expenditure which I was required to make out of my commission was for my office clerk.

I took the plans and specifications to Edmonton (at my own expense) and submitted them to C. E. Storey, architect and building commissioner of the Edmonton School Board, who has built many fine schools in that city. He assured me that the plans were all right, and I felt satisfied that this city would have a good school.

When the building was completed, and it was found that the walls did not keep out moisture, many experts examined the building, and their reports varied greatly. There is not space for me to discuss each report in detail, but most of the criticism made in them, were of the plans and specifications and, consequently, do not concern me. Criticism was made however, of (1) the materials supplied, (2) the workmanship, (3) the wall construction. In reference to the reports of Mr. Cox, and the late city engineer, there appears to be little doubt but that both these reports were inspired, and

(Continued on Page 4.)

GEORGE SHIRLEY EXPIRED TODAY

Brother of Local Sheriff Was Well Known Pioneer of Northern British Columbia

George M. Shirley, brother of Sheriff John Shirley, died this morning at the home of his brother on Fulton Street. For some months the late Mr. Shirley had been in failing health and had been residing in the city with his brother.

Deceased was one of the pioneers of the Atlin mining country. In 1899 he and his brother went into Atlin by way of Glenora and Telegraph Creek. He worked for the provincial government in the building of roads in that district and also did some prospecting. Coming to Prince Rupert about ten years ago he took up land near Haysport and had settled there as a farmer.

The late Mr. Shirley was about 70 years of age and was a native of Ontario. He was unmarried.

MUCH LOGGING AT ALICE ARM TO BE DONE THIS YEAR

ALICE ARM, Feb. 14. — The logging industry will likely overshadow mining in Alice Arm this year. The Tretheway Co. is ready to start now and it is expected a crew of from 50 to 60 men mill be put on next month. The Granby Co. is also to log off lands at the head of the arm this summer. The Alice Arm Freighting Co., Gustafson Bros., and C. P. Riel are also starting camps in the neighborhood.