'Why Not'

Start at the Bottom and Remind Santa to—

Make This a Shoe or Slipper Christmas

NO other GIFT finds a greater welcome, or gives more pleasure than — Shoes, Slippers or Hosiery

GUESS AT THE SIZES — WE WILL CHANGE THEM

FAMILY SHOE STORE LTD.

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THE DAILY NEWS.

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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H. F. PULLEN - - - Managing-Editor

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ONE MORE DAY

There is but one more day for us to do what Christmas buying is necessary. That is tomorrow. Many have found it impossible to do any buying. Some have bought but little and others again have not done as much buying as they might, considering the condition of their poorer neighbors. That is their business.

On Christmas there will be some regrets when it is remembered that neighbors or friends have not been remembered with a little Christmas gift. Others will regret they did not help the Salvation Army or some other organization in their noble work. To any or all of these we suggest that they act tomorrow instead of worrying on Christmas Day.

Baptist 'Xmas Entertainment

Large Attendance at Enjoyable Affair Last Night

The annual Christmas entertainment of the First Baptist Sunday School was held last evening in the church, many parents and children being present. The superintendent, P. H. Linzey, being in the chair, announced a program of unusual interest. Old Santa appeared in due time to give away toys and candy and greatly amused all with his witticisms. The general convener of the program committee was Mrs. J. C. Gilker.

The following children took part:

Recitations—Joan Moore, Sigrid Hed, Margaret Davies, Evelyn Moore, Zelda Hale, Jean Krause, Melbourne Bussey, Josephine Gay, Margaret Armstrong.

Violin solo by Phyllis Hamblin.

Song by Amy Armstrong.

Exercise by Mr. Glass's boys.

Sketch by Helping Hands Class.

Sketch by Mrs. Linzey's class.

Exercise and song by Mrs. Glass's class of girls.

MAKE it a Merry Christmas indeed with a plentiful supply of good, wholesome beer. These are brands you can always depend upon for purity and excellence.

Phoenix Lager
Silver Spring Lager
Bohemian Rice Beer
Burton (Type) Ale
English Bitter Beer
Silver Spring XXXX Invalid Stout

VICTORIA PHOENIX BREWING CO. LTD.

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Ratepayers Think Time Has Arrived For Drastic Action

(Continued from Page 1)

that the best course now seemed to be to appeal to the government to take the affairs of the city in hand.

F. W. Wesch, president of the association, could see no other way out aside from the appointment of a commissioner. City councils had not looked after the affairs of the city as they should have done and had consistently turned a deaf ear on the ratepayers.

F. W. Hart was also in favor of the appointment of a commissioner.

Percy Cameron thought that the movement for a commissioner should be launched at a much larger and more representative meeting of ratepayers.

President Wesch pointed out that any ratepayer could ask the courts for a commissioner after the city had defaulted on bonded indebtedness.

T. J. Shenton, Labor aldermanic candidate, was not in favor of a commissioner. A commissioner would have dictatory powers and there would be no chance of redress as offered by a city council. "The city might as well send for Mussolini." The first thing the commissioner would do, he feared, would be to cut wages. He could not see where benefit was to be derived from the appointment of a commissioner. As a matter of fact, Prince Rupert was no worse off than any other city in the province. If the right council were obtained, he believed that things could be righted. Among other things, a commissioner would have the right to make taxes as high as he saw fit and there would be no recourse for the property owners.

President Wesch did not think a commissioner could make things any worse than they were today. Indeed, he would be put in to make things better.

Victor Basso-Bert thought that Mr. Shenton's remark regarding the commissioner cutting wages was a "red herring." The property owners of the city were also workers and it was their desire that the city should be dragged out of the hole in which it now found itself. Too long had it been the victim of "irresponsible administraton." By saving the life of the city of Prince Rupert, the workingmen would also be saved.

Ald. James Black

Ald. James Black, who was present, objected to the reference regarding "irresponsible administration." Did Mr. Basso-Bert mean the present council?

Mr. Basso-Bert, himself an ex-alderman, replied that he meant all councils of the past. Work had been consistently costing the city 100% more than it should.

John Carroll charged that there had been politics in city affairs from first to last. With the exception of one Conservative council, control had always been divided between the Liberals and the Laborites. The Labor men had been a detriment to the city, he felt.

M. M. Stephens did not believe a commissioner would be detrimental to the property owners. He would like to know where a commissioner had been put in by a municipality and had failed. There would be a vast difference between a commissioner and a politician. There had been too much "peanut politics" in city councils of the past. There was too much of an inclination on the part of mayor and aldermen to look forward to the next election rather than to look after the interests of the city. True there might be higher taxes with a commissioner but that would not be the fault of the commissioner but would be merely paying for the errors of the past. Today reverted lots and unpaid taxes were strangling the city financially.

T. J. Shenton charged that there had been the "spoils system" in the past in civic affairs and some aldermen had undoubtedly received their percentage. They should have been brought to check. However, he still believed that the city council plan was the best and preferable to a commissioner.

The meeting came to a close with a desultory quarrel in which Mr. Shenton, Mr. Carroll and John Murray took part. Considerable heat developed and there were cries of "scab" and such epithets.

The report of the executive committee on civic finances was as follows:

Report of Committee

"Your executive committee finds, from information supplied from the City Hall and elsewhere, that, for the year ending December 31, 1932, there is an admitted deficit of $68,000.00.

"The tax levy for 1932 was:

"General	$265,398.93
"Local Improvements	122,000.00
"Total	$387,398.93

"Taxes for 1932 collected amounted to:

"General	$197,458.56
"Local Improvements	52,000.00
"Total	$249,458.56

"Taxes paid were, therefore, $137,940.37 less than the levy.

"On December 31, 1931 there were arrears of taxes and interest amounting to $365,780.17, of which there was collected in 1932, $9,956.04, leaving $355,824.13 to which add 1932 arrears, $137,940.37 and the annual interest permitted, $48,892.00 and we have a total of arrears of taxes of $542,456.50.

"Of this amount there is probably about the same proportion which will be paid as of arrears for 1931 which was about 3½% only. The balance of the amount, or a half a million dollars, is at best a bad debt, although carried in the city's assets.

"Taking the city's admitted deficit of $68,000 for 1932, which is likely to be under the actual deficit, and by adding $32,000 defaulted bonds, debentures and interest accruing due in 1933, $225,000, exchange at about the present rate, $35,000, fixed charges for interest, social services and relief, at say, $275,000, departmental expenses at 1932 estimates, $230,000 including schools, we have a total of $865,000 necessary to be raised before the end of 1933.

"In 1932 the revenue from all sources was only $595,829 which, if the same could be collected in 1933, would leave $269,171 deficit at the end of 1933.

Taxable Property Shrinking

"This huge deficit would occur if the city could tax the same amount of improvements and land at the same rate of taxation and obtain the same amount of government assistance which is doubtful. It is certain that there will not be as much taxable property for the C. N. R. has been unloading its property on to the city and tax sale reversions keep narrowing down the amount of taxable real estate.

"The following figures showing the arrears of taxes and interest from time to time show where the city has been drifting and how deceptive it is to treat such items as assets in its balance sheets:

"1921	$175,556.00
"1922	176,559.00
"1923	238,134.00
"1924	243,259.00
"1929	306,291.00
"1930	328,753.00
"1931	365,780.00
"1932	542,456.00

"A movement is said to be on foot seeking permission to use sinking funds to the amount of $140,000, earmarked for the retirement of hydro-electric bonds, for current expenses. Your committee believes this to be unsound practice and recommends to this association that it protest to the city council against such a practice and to any other in authority against permission to use this fund for any other purpose than that for which it was intended.

"In view of the foregoing and of the experience of the past several years of municipal financing by various councils, it is the opinion of your committee that the only hope of getting the city back on an even financial keel lies in the early appointment of a commissioner. We cannot hope to keep up with such deficits as are in sight from the restricted amount of taxable property and taxes are already a great burden to the ratepayers."

Captured in Well

Monkey-face. It's hard enough lines having a face like this without having someone lasso you out of a well when you're right in the middle of devouring a dead rattle-snake. No wonder this monkey-faced owl sulks.

Today's Weather

Prince Rupert—Cloudy, light southerly wind; barometer, 29.55; temperature, 42; sea smooth.

Triple Island—Overcast, light southwest wind; sea rough.

Langara Island—Cloudy, strong westerly wind; sea rough.

SHERRIFF'S GOLD BOND
A rare Liqueur Whisky of quality, age and pleasing flavor.
$3.15 REP. QT.

FIVE SCOTS
Carefully distilled and aged to ripe perfection, its mellow richness makes it a prime favorite.
$2.90 REP. QT.

SPEYSIDE
Choice Highland malts and selected grain whisky of guaranteed age give "Speyside" smoothness and flavor that will delight your guests.
$3.40 REP. QT.

The above blends will appeal to connoisseurs of Scotch Whiskys —

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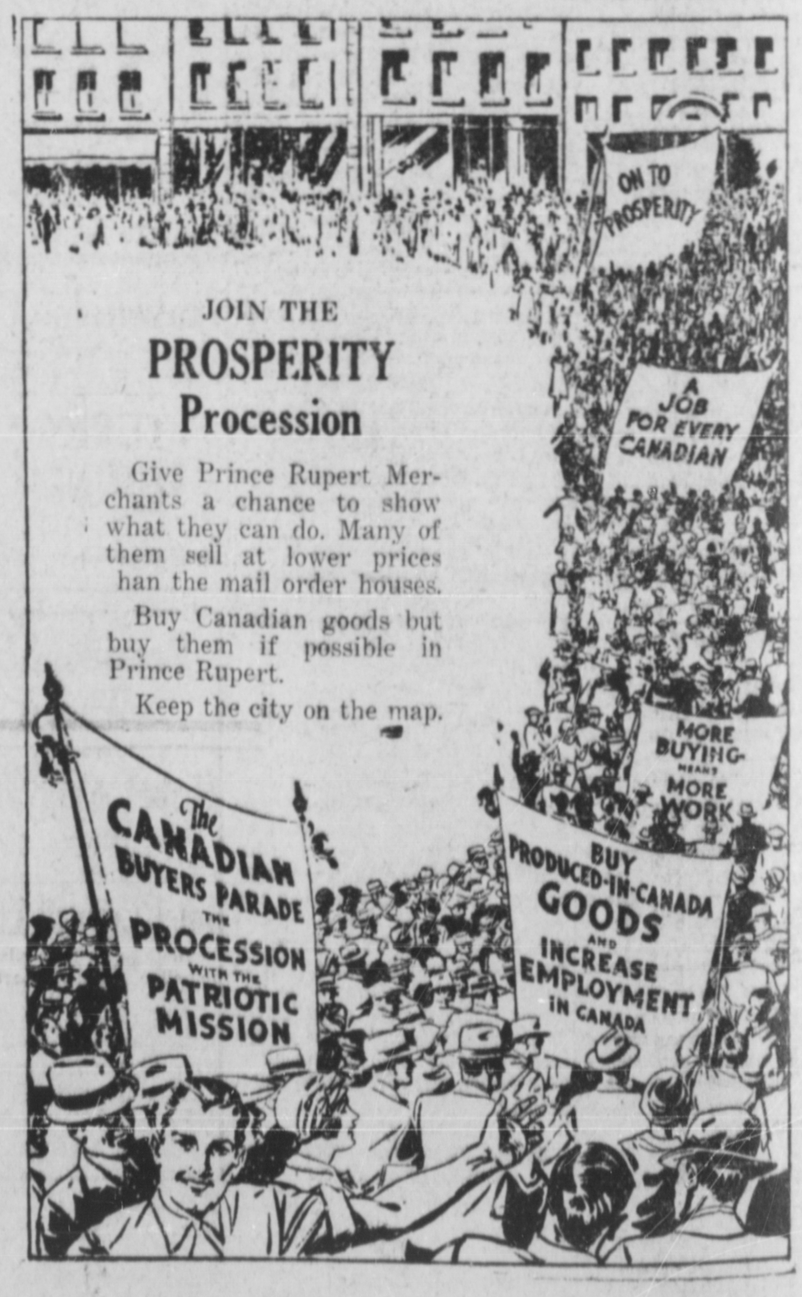

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Buy Canadian goods but buy them if possible in Prince Rupert.

Keep the city on the map.