

THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DAILY EDITION

Friday, December 26, 1924.

Don't Curse Our Politicians.

A novel and interesting article described as a biting indictment of shiftless citizenship and a clarion call for constructive "followership" is published in the current number of MacLean's Magazine. It is entitled "Don't Curse Our Politicians - Help Them," and is written by Grattan O'Leary.

In part it says: There are four classes of persons who constantly assail politicians.

There are the merely malevolent, motivated by partisan, or financial, or political reasons.

There are the well-meaning but unthinking people who are seemingly ready to swallow anything told them to the detriment of politicians, as a class.

There are the people who are incapable of distinguishing between gossip and demonstrated facts.

And there are certain journalists who, either belonging to the underworld of newspaperdom, or oblivious to the responsibilities and traditions of their calling, are more concerned with being smart or sensational than with the well-being of the government of their country.

Untruthful, Exaggerated And Unjust Criticism.

I have been watching Parliament and politicians for thirteen years. I have sat in the Parliamentary Press Gallery at Ottawa through fourteen sessions. I have observed the functioning of five parliaments; have seen the rise and fall of four ministries; have had a personal knowledge of most of the men of all parties, from Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Mr. King. In consequence of what I have seen, as a result of continuous and critical scrutiny of men and facts from a vantage ground offering every opportunity for detection of wrong, I am convinced that current criticism of politicians is mostly untruthful, nearly always exaggerated, and frequently cruelly unjust.

There are people who talk as though politics and dishonesty were synonymous terms. Yet what are the true facts? Since Confederation politicians have administered between four and five billions of public money. How many of them have been found guilty of dishonesty? How far back into political history does one have to go to find a public man of note who actually used his position for his personal gain? In the federal field, more than a quarter of a century.

Last session E. Guss Porter, a few days ago defeated in Hastings, rose in parliament to impeach a member of the ministry. In making his accusation he said a very wonderful thing. He said that he labored under some difficulty in framing an indictment, because, although he had searched the records, he could find no precedent in Canadian politics for the wrong-doing of the minister in question. And Mr. Murdoch, be it remembered, was not charged with anything like tampering with public funds. The sole crime alleged against him was that he used information secured in the cabinet to avoid personal financial loss.

One wishes that those who talk so glibly and ignorantly about the crookedness of politicians would ponder over that passage by Mr. Porter.

Truthful Or Not, Effect Still There.

During the war Canadian governments spent something like two billions of dollars. It was expenditure made in desperate haste, surrounded by complex difficulties, and without chance for public scrutiny which time and deliberation permit; never was there a richer field for the grafter or the crook. Yet despite the most minute post-war dissection by rival parties, despite that practically every item was subjected to microscopic examination by partisans all too anxious to find wrong, every investigation vindicated the honesty of politics. Only in one solitary case—a very insignificant one—was an obscure politician condemned; and the verdict was open to reasonable doubt. Yet during all of those years, when Canada's war effort was being prosecuted with an integrity, a resolution, an intelligence and a patriotism that was a glorious tribute to democracy, the critics of politicians, the retailers of cloak-room gossip and of slander, flourished like green bay trees. It mattered not that inquiry after inquiry revealed charges to be lies! It mattered not that accusations and innuendoes were successively run down—the evil tongues continued.

The great trouble is that for every lie that is nailed there are scores that go unanswered. They are rolled as choice morsels on the tongues of thousands; they are seized upon by every Bolshevik and misfit in the country; they are paraded eagerly by every defective, glad to balance his own shortcomings by the alleged errors of others; they are swallowed by the glibble; and they do infinite harm.

Great Farming Possibilities Exist on Queen Charlotte Ids. But Some Capital Is Required

By C. Harrison

The Queen Charlotte Islands lie approximately 180 miles north of the City of Vancouver. The shores on both sides of the land-locked course of steamships are invariably steep and densely clothed with forests. Graham Island offers a remarkable contrast to all the land observed after leaving Vancouver Island. Instead of shores rising abruptly out of the water and attaining heights of 1,000 to 3,000 feet within a mile or less, here there is a sandy shore with a white beach, and back of it long level stretches giving promise of agricultural lands when

drained and cleared of the dwarf vegetation. The soil is rich and fertile, level or gently rolling leaf mould one to four feet deep, and sub-soils of gravelly clay. The rainfall is about 50 inches a year and well distributed. Up to twelve years ago no serious attempt had been made to develop the resources of these islands, the importance of which has just begun to be realized. Great possibilities of farming pursuits exist on the "Charlottes" especially on Graham Island, and the rapidly increasing market of Prince Rupert, together with the mining, fishing and logging camps will absorb all the vegetables and farm produce that these islands can grow for years to come.

No Cold Weather

It is a remarkable fact that although lying in the same cold latitude as Alaska, Graham Island enjoys mild winters with scarcely any snowfall and no summer frosts. The reason is that the islands lie in the set of the warm Japanese current, and often at Christmastide roses and other flowers are blooming. Report on Graham Island's climate made by C. de B. Green, Esq., B.C.L.S., for the ministry of lands, British Columbia, 1914, states: "The Japanese" current seems to exert rather a greater influence over the temperature of Graham Island than the Gulf Stream over Scotland, for extremes of temperature are less here though the rainfall is about the same in both countries." In my opinion the climatic conditions are about the same as those in Ireland. There are no high mountain ranges. Immense flocks of wild fowl and bird life of all kinds, driven by the severities of the winter on the mainland winter here. Competent authorities state that the richest agricultural lands on the islands are limited, especially as it is a country where farming can be carried on all the year round, and not frozen up six months of the year as it is in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Eastern Canada. In all open spaces a bunch of grass grows called scutch attaining a height of three feet and similar to Italian rye grass and very succulent, possessing rich feeding properties for stock raising, making exceptionally luscious beef equal to the best English article. The cattle live out on the grass all the year round, but it is wise to provide hay in case of a bad winter. A few short and long wool sheep have been raised and hogs can feed in the bush, living on roots, plants and grass, and make excellent pork. All kinds of small fruits thrive, and earlier varieties of apples, plums, and cherries grow in abundance. The hillsides are covered with wild raspberries, salmon berries, blue and red huckle berries and black currant berries. On the sandy downs quantities of wild strawberries of excellent flavor are obtained annually. Excellent potatoes are raised, swede turnips and mangel wurzels do well; sugar beets and English berries of all descriptions give remarkable results. Mr. Leary, formerly of Skidegate, picked an average of eighteen pounds of gooseberries from each of his small bushes several years ago the size of pigeons' eggs. Red, white and black currants and onions also yield big results.

Small Fruits

Another surveyor for the British Columbia government, F. D. Rice, in 1913 reported: "Small fruits of all kinds yield exceptionally well, and apples, plums and cherries have been successfully grown in this locality. Wild fruits of the following varieties thrive all over the islands—strawberries, salmon berries, red and black huckle berries, high and low bush cranberries, sallow berries, blue berries and white crab apples. There were some excellent flower gardens on the islands. Flowers of all kinds do well and a number of settlers have splendid rose bushes, honeysuckle vines, English ivy and holly trees which grow to perfection. Numerous ruby-throated humming birds gather around the honeysuckle and creepers. The English holly, lilac, virginia creeper and ivy grow in profusion; roses, poppies, dahlias, chrysanthemums, violets, primroses, bluebells, marigolds, buttercups and daisies are cultivated and grow to perfection similar to those grown on the meadow lands of southern England.

Great possibilities exist on these islands for farming pursuits, but the fact that the "Charlottes" being a new country, the land demands clearing, so would not advise anyone to go there unless they are possessed with funds to keep them the first two or three years whilst they bring their land under cultivation and make it revenue producing, and once this is accomplished the returns are certain and the land rapidly appreciates in value. Muskeggy land may be easier to bring under cultivation by draining than the timbered country, but even then the land cannot be made revenue producing under two years as the land so drained is sure to be sour for that period at the least. I know of what I am writing as I have cultivated both classes of land, and personally I prefer timber covered land to clear and cultivate to that of the muskeg. Graham Island wants settlers, farmer-fishermen and others of good repute, and in return it offers opportunities that will pay them for their time, energy and capital invested.

Editor's Note—This is the first of a series of articles written by



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Mr. Harrison, pioneer investor in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The next will appear in an early issue.

Ten Years Ago in Prince Rupert

The clubs of Prince Rupert made the most of Christmas. Goodfellowship was supreme. Brightness and mirth made the hours appear winged. At the Wanderers' Club the city band and Welsh choir contributed greatly to the success of the day.

E. A. Mann, who has been in Toronto since last fall, has received second class honors in a recent examination at the Toronto College of Pharmacy.

It is pointed out that the shrimp fishing industry here should be revived. Wrangell fishermen are making good at this business which was formerly conducted profitably out of Prince Rupert.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY B.C. Coast Services

Sailings from Prince Rupert PRINCESS ALICE - PRINCESS MARY For Vancouver, Victoria, and Seattle— Nov. 7, 21; Dec. 5, 19 For Ketchikan, Wrangell, Juneau, Skagway— Nov. 3, 17; Dec. 1, 15, 29 S.S. PRINCESS BEATRICE. For Butedale, Swanson Bay, East Bella Bella, Oca Falls, Namu, Alert Bay, Campbell River, and Vancouver, every Saturday, 11 a.m. Agency for all Steamship Lines Full information from W. C. ORCHARD, General Agent Corner of 4th Street and 3rd Avenue, Prince Rupert, B.C.

UNION STEAMSHIP COMPANY OF B.C., LTD.

Sailings from Prince Rupert. For VANCOUVER, VICTORIA, Swanson Bay, and Alert Bay, Tuesday, 5 P.M. For VANCOUVER, VICTORIA, Alert Bay, and Swanson Bay, Saturday, 10 A.M. For ANXO, ALICE ARM, STEWART, Sunday, 8 P.M. For ANXO, PORT SIMPSON and Neas River Canneries, Friday A.M. 625 2nd Avenue. J. Barnsley, Agent. Prince Rupert, B.C.

Advertisement for Grants BEST PROCURABLE Scotch Whisky, featuring a bottle illustration and the signature of William Grant & Sons.

The original label—look for it at the Vendors, and insist on GRANT'S "BEST PROCURABLE." This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

Advertisement for Santal Midy capsules, used for treating catarrh of the bladder.

Large advertisement for Silk Hat Cocktails, featuring two bottles and text describing a full-bodied blend of delicious liquors, available for \$2.50 per bottle.

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