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### THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Published Every Afternoon, except Sunday, the Prince Rupert Daily News, Limited, Third Avenue. H. F. PULLEN, Managing Editor.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

City Delivery, by mail or carrier, per month ..... \$1.00  
 By mail to all parts of the British Empire and the United States, in advance, per year ..... \$6.00  
 To all other countries, in advance, per year ..... \$7.50

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations.

DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, March 12, 1924.

#### Consider Utilities As A Whole.

It is encouraging to hear from the civic authorities that now, for the first time in the history of the city, the civic utilities are paying their way and even providing a little profit. Hitherto the water department has been robbed to make a surplus for the power and light and, while much has been made of the department that paid its way, little has been said of the losses. The only way to treat them fairly is to consider them as a whole. If there is a loss on one it should be made up by the other before considering its relation to taxation.

#### Must Look Forward To The Future.

If a private concern were handling these utilities they would look forward to the enlargement of the plant and would set aside a reserve fund with which to begin the purchase of new equipment when it was found necessary to enlarge the plants. That is distinct from the sinking fund for paying off the original investment. The time will come before very long when new equipment must be purchased and then it should be done without placing any burden on the city. It will probably be found, however, that this cannot be done because when new plant is put in it is usually operated at a loss. Just now the plants, telephone, light and power, are being operated pretty much at their peak load. That means that just now they should be paying substantial profits. Directly the plants are enlarged there will be an unused surplus on which there will be a loss. Nearly all plants lose money for a few years after being installed. Usually they are large enough to allow for expansion and the overhead on this unused portion is a drain on the finances.

#### Telephone Should Be Paying Well.

The telephone should be paying well just now. We have been told on various occasions that we must have a new plant and have it immediately. However, we have been able to do without making a change but, if what we were told was true, we must be near the limit of expansion. In that case we should be setting aside good profits to help pay for the installation of the new plant and to cover the possible losses during the first year or two of operation after the new plant is installed. A business concern would do that.

As a telephone system increases in size it becomes unwieldy and more difficult to handle to advantage. Subscribers get more for their money because, instead of being connected with hundreds of subscribers they then have thousands with whom they may communicate. Then the service deteriorates. Just now the service here is as good if not better than any in the country. The girls are prompt and fairly accurate. They seem to attend to business and they are always ready to give information as long as it does not interfere with the rest of the service. This should be appreciated by subscribers.

#### Little Different From Corporation.

There is little advantage to be gained from owning our own utilities, so far as we have been able to see. We are, however, willing to be shown. We pay for the services about as much as they do in other places. Some are higher and some lower. We get a somewhat similar service to other places, speaking generally of the power, light, telephone and water. Over a period of years it is doubtful if the system will show a profit, and it may show a loss. There is also the danger of having a large number of civic employees taking part in civic politics.

Set against this is the fact that the people can have any kind of service they wish by paying for it, which might not be possible if the services were in private hands. There is also the danger of a powerful corporation wielding too great an influence in political life, although it is doubtful if that influence is as great as the influence of the civic owned plant. So far as the citizens are concerned the privately owned plant would probably have given as good service and with less risk to the city. However, we have the plants and we shall have to make the best of them and see that the citizens get the best possible service at the minimum cost. Just now they seem to be doing well but there is no telling how soon they may again be made a burden on the city should the management become careless.

## PROGRESS MADE IN FAIR WORK

Early Start to be Made on Publicity—Revision of Prize Lists Well Advanced

REPAIRS TO BUILDING TO START VERY SOON

The regular monthly meeting of the Fair Board was held last evening. President Joe Greer was in the chair and the following directors were present: Ald. R. F. Perry, John Bulger, Frank Dobb, Fred Seaden, George W. Kerr, D. Jabour and D. McD. Hunter.

The question of publicity for 1924 was discussed. On account of the change of policy with reference to earlier publication of the prize list and the revision of rules governing exhibits and exhibitors, it was deemed advisable to arrange for greater advertising at an early date. The matter was left in the hands of the publicity committee, consisting of Joe Greer, Ald. G. V. Eviil and Ben Self, with power to act.

#### Outside Prizes

A strenuous effort is being made this year to induce outside people to advertise in the prize book or otherwise, show their interest by offering special prizes. Generous response has been met in connection with the latter and it is expected that outside business houses will respond in the way of advertising. D. McD. Hunter, managing director, reported to the meeting.

Various committee reports were received. On recommendation of the building committee, it was decided to "make" some minor repairs to the hall as soon as possible. It was left with the finance committee to arrange for the raising of money to attend to more important work that will have to be done.

The prize list committee reported that the revision of eight different classes of exhibits had been completed. The revision of the school list will soon be finished it is expected.

#### More Exhibits

Reports of sub-committees indicated that exhibits would be more numerous and of more outstanding character than ever before at the forthcoming fair. Preparatory work is to be continued energetically.

The sports and attractions committee is about to outline its policy for the year.

## FICTION NOT ONLY DEMAND

Librarian says Philosophy and Religion Interest Many People Today

#### DICKENS IS POPULAR

Miss Grant Gives More Attention to Travel and Biography

While the demand for fiction in any library is always greater than for any other class of book, it would surprise many people to know how great is the demand for books on philosophy and religion, science and the mechanic trades, travel and biography, according to Miss Muriel Grant, librarian. Miss Grant says that the war fostered an interest in spiritualism and religion and there is still an active demand for books along those lines. Many readers are also asking for books on psychology and philosophy quite apart from the mushroom-like interest in Goun and Freud.

In order to meet this demand a number of books have been added to the collection along that



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line, among them being: History of Philosophy by Windelband. Lectures on Modern Idealism, by Royce. Christianity and Progress, by Fösdick. Can I be a Christian? by Hannay. The Story of the Bible, by Van Loon. A Good Book What is a good book? That is one of the problems that is puzzling the local librarian. Miss Grant says that many of the patrons of the library come in and ask for "a good book." They may mean the latest Zane Grey story or a novel by Marie Corelli or perhaps a book by John Buchan, Hugh Walpole or Joseph Conrad. The idea of what constitutes a good book differs in almost every individual and the librarian needs to be a mind reader as well as a reader of books in order to fit the book to the person asking for it. Miss Grant suggests that truth is often stranger than fiction and much more interesting. She says if some of the jaded novel readers would turn sometimes to the shelves of travel or biography they would find the books fascinating and instructive. She ascribes the light reading of the present to the fact that this is an age of moving pictures, which have made people restless and unable to concentrate on anything that cannot be read at one sitting. Among interesting recent books on travel and biography the librarian suggests: Pierre Gurie, by his wife. Cesare Borgia, by Sabatini. Roosevelt, by Lord Charnwood. My Garden of Memory, by K. D. Wiggin. The Bleeking of Zeebrugge, by Carpenter. The Worst Journey in the World, by Cherry-Garrard. Down the Mackenzie, by Waldo. In spite of demands for new books hot from the press, there is a steady demand for the old standard classics—Charlotte Bronte and Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens and Thackeray; but of all of them one finds that Dickens is read more than any, says the librarian. His pervading humor, and broad humanity seems to be standing the test of time better than the other notable 19th century novelists. There are fewer names in fiction better known than Pickwick, Oliver Twist, David Copperfield—not only known but loved. Even the children ask for Dickens' and read him too, and enjoy him.

the other evening and inquiry elicited the information that it was a young lady popping the question, it being leap year.

OWING to the few radio outfits here there is little demand for "loud speakers." And yet we have heard a few and some we would rather not hear again. Honesty is the best policy but it is not wise to be always telling people about it. IF rouge does not look like the skin it is next to it. BARE feet and legs are said to be immoral and yet angels usually wear them that way. A WOMAN is the better half because she costs more to keep than a man. IF urging is any good, that elevator should be about started here. WITH a morning Sun and an Evening Sun in Vancouver the city should easily get rid of the fogs that surround it so consistently.

**HOTEL ARRIVALS Prince Rupert**  
T. McCulloch, Buckley Bay; J. J. Hilliard, Eagle; L. A. Palmer, Vancouver; A. H. Lund, Victoria; Miss S. Dean, Miss S. Calderone, Mrs. Windstrum, Miss H. Calderone, Miss R. Moffatt, Miss R. Champion and Mrs. Chapman, Anxox; John Nyholm, Stewart; J. A. Brown, Port Essington; A. Larson, Tacoma.  
Central  
Frank Ward, Massett; Dan McClanahan, N. P. Wickstrom, A. Quarnstrom, R. Inkster and L. Koval, Anxox; A. H. Wilson, Terrace.

**The Man in the Moon SAYS—**  
A CLOCK keeps its hands busy and its face quiet. There is something for us all to imitate.  
THE jig is not up. Henry Ford danced one the other day and he never patronizes anything that is high.  
RUNNING a motorboat teaches one that it is well to watch the timer.  
WHAT keeps the price of leather so high is the quantity the butchers sell under the name of steak.  
AN unusual noise was heard

## Canadian National Railways

### Prince Rupert

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