

AD Independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

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Airfield Lies in Our Hands

WITHIN a short time now we should be able to expect from Ottawa an acknowledgment of our Chamber of Commerce resolution calling for the establishment of a land airport at Prince Rupert.

Although the Prime Minister, to whom the resolution was presented, is without question a conscientious man, he is also a busy one. It must therefore be expected that the resolution will move along the customary line of attention by others for appropriate handling.

There is no objection to this. On the contrary, if the Prime Minister was obliged to labor personally over every local request and issue addressed to him, Canadians should feel alarm as he would soon be unfit to offer any kind of leadership in the country's affairs.

What does concern us is the direction of the line along which the resolution is referred. If it slopes downward below cabinet level or outward in the direction of red tape and pigeon holes, we should be prepared at once to seek another course of action which will lead to less barren places.

This, however, suggests an unlikely contingency. Those who spoke to the Prime Minister on the subject during his visit here were impressed with his encouraging interest and his inference that we should aim high in making our request.

Followed with too much enthusiasm, this advice could carry us right out of the picture, but that obviously was not his intention.

Nevertheless, we must remain on the alert and plan wisely. Although the resolution has been given into his hands, the responsibility for action is still in ours. It will remain there until we have an airfield at Prince Rupert.

Warm Reception Biggest Reward

THOSE who have arranged to bring the Alaska Music Trail concerts to Prince Rupert are anticipating a good season, and it would seem they have every right to do so. The musicians they have obtained are among the finest in the world and there is evidence that the previous concerts have kindled a warm interest in the series as a whole.

This is welcome news. Without in any way attempting to speak for the artists themselves, we cannot believe that the size of the hall or the price he receives provides the measure by which a musician judges the success of his performance. Large though both may be, there is nothing in either which offers convincing proof that he was listened to and liked.

We believe, instead, that his most rewarding experience is to play before a full and responsive audience. If his listeners' applause surges up to the end and they are calling for more, it hardly matters then how much they paid or where they are. They like him and are saying so.

No doubt the artists appearing in the concerts here can win such reaction in whatever city they play, but it is encouraging to know that Prince Rupert is already looking forward to their arrival. If the house is full, the reception is that much warmer and the assurance is that much greater that they will return and bring others with them.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Scientists Study Woods to Improve Forest Industry

VANCOUVER (CP)—Science has stepped into the British Columbia woods to explore the life habits of forest giants—the trees that supply the rich timber industry.

Two major problems are under study. They are the scientific thinning of forests and the artificial debarking of trees. The scientists of the woods want to know if thinning of the forests will produce finer and more valuable wood.

A speedy method of debarking trees is sought to meet the needs of pulp mills. They want trees without bark.

Deep in the woods of Vancouver Island the experiments are being carried out by foreign-born specialists.

At Lake Cowichan Ryszard Porzuchowski, specializes in examining the heart wood—the richest part of the tree—as he prepares to report on a thinning

method. It is hoped scientific thinning will produce more valuable wood.

Porzuchowski, a Polish-born forester who came to Canada last year after some years in South Africa, believes thinning will result in sturdier and taller trees of better quality. Success would mean millions of dollars for the industry.

Acres of forest lands have been thinned out—like a flower or vegetable garden—during the experiments.

Swiss-born Sandro Bentell, a graduate of the University of Zurich and the University of British Columbia, is carrying out the debarking experiments. A poison method is under

Steel Supply More Abundant For Building

DIGBY, N.S. (C)—An increased supply of steel was forecast today by P. G. Wilmut, of Montreal, president of the Canadian Construction Association.

Addressing the Maritime regional meeting of the CCA, Mr. Wilmut said the recent United States steel strike had set back plans to remove Canadian restrictions affecting the allocation of steel to the construction industry, however:

"All going well, it is expected that permits will become increasingly available for certain types of buildings previously denied steel, and that present steel orders will be eliminated prior to next year's building season.

"In the meantime it is a source of satisfaction, and some envy, that the volume of maritime contract awards for the first eight months of the year was 30 per cent above the total for the same period last year, compared to a national decrease of 27 per cent, according to MacLean's building reports."

Statistics concerning residential construction, however, were less cheerful.

"Official figures available for the first five months of 1952 show a 39-per-cent drop in housing starts in the four Atlantic provinces, compared to the same period in 1951.

"Far-reaching conclusions should not be taken from figures covering such a short period, but the decline in housing starts is 2 1/2 times the decline for Canada as a whole."

Mr. Wilmut said there is no easy or single solution to the fall-off in house building in Canada.

Recent changes in National Housing Act regulations were designed to help overcome the shortage of money for small and medium-sized houses. However:

"Only about one-third of new housing units receive federal assistance in financing, and minor changes to N.H.A. regulations are not likely to cause substantial changes in the volume of housebuilding."

"At the same time, the group who normally look to N.H.A. for help in financing new homes is perhaps the most important in the non-tenant category, and a good argument may be made that this group should be enlarged."

Mr. Wilmut said the C.C.A. welcomes foreign capital, technical skill and fair competition.

"There are, however, a number of factors that often place American contractors at an advantage over Canadian operators. Many of these can be counteracted by better merchandising of our own services. Some, however, involving tariffs and taxation, require government action to restore the balance."

Drew Tours Europe to Find Facts

OTTAWA (C)—George Drew, Progressive Conservative Leader, has left by plane on a "fact-finding" tour on trade in Britain, France and Germany.

An announcement from his office said Mr. Drew is making the trip "because overseas trade has been so seriously reduced and the restrictions on buying from the sterling area seriously threaten agricultural exports from this country."

It added: "With the Commonwealth Conference taking place in November it is certain that trade will be one of the most important subjects discussed in the coming (parliamentary) session."

Mr. Drew will address the British Industries Association in London and will attend the Berlin Trade Fair opening next week. He expects to attend international trade conferences in Germany and France.

study. He has treated more than 1,000 trees in the Lake Cowichan forests with poison, using three different types in his work.

He will report on how quickly the poison works, how quickly the trees die, and how quickly they shed their bark.

A big saving could be made if artificial shedding in the forests could be accomplished. It would make a lighter haul to the mills and save hours of debarking time.

Bentell isn't making any guesses as to success in his experiments.

"I don't know yet," he said. "It's research—and in research we never know until we're sure."



17-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS at Harrow, one of England's famous old schools, founded in 1572, were King Faisal of Iraq and King Hussein of Jordan. Both the young Arab rulers are pictured above with Harrow schoolmates and a teacher before Faisal (second from left) left on his recent visit to the U.S. Hussein (extreme left) recently succeeded his sick father King Talal to the Jordan throne. Through the centuries Harrow has built up a long list of famous former pupils, Winston Churchill being among seven British Prime Ministers.

UNDER OUR ROOF

By JOHN STURDY

I'm sorry about this Prince Rupert business. I understand there was a reception at the Civic Centre, and a dinner or a luncheon or something, and it's just regrettable that you people went to all that fuss, and then we didn't show up. Well, anyway, you had the other guest, and I'm sure you were glad to see the Prime Minister.

Hamish and Little Augie and Col. S. Skeffington-Smutts (Ret.) feel as badly as I do about it. The Colonel hopes you didn't go to too much trouble about a Guard of Honor, because he's retired, you know, even if he does carry his trusty sabre at all times.

And Little Augie says he will try to make it up on our way back by offering reduced prices to any thirsty souls who would like to sample his new batch of Little Augie's 100 Proof Guaranteed Extra-Special Home Brew.

We did intend to stop at Prince Rupert. We had planned that from the start, when we left the Island well-nigh on to a month ago, and took this cruise ship out of Vancouver. So I might as well admit it right now.

We never even saw Prince Rupert. The ship docked there, we understand, but our stateroom was so far down in the depths of the ship, next to the engine room, that we could have been at the South Pole and never have known it.

The fact that the Captain had thrown us in irons also made things a trifle difficult.

END OF TRIP

Well, they did come for us eventually, and a steward walked into the cabin and announced:

"All ashore that's going ashore," and I said: "Well, boys, comb your hair. It's Prince Rupert at last."

"Prince Rupert, my eye," said the steward. "This is Skagway. And what's more," he added, "we don't go any further, for which the captain and the captain and the entire crew, including myself, offer thankful blessings."

So here we were, stranded in Alaska, at the wrong end of the old Trail of '98, and we stood on the wind-swept wharf, staring bleakly around us, until Hamish suddenly hitched up his belt and said: "Well, let's tilt a poke of dust on the bar and call for drinks for the house."

"Oh, shut up, Hamish," I said. "This is no time for Robert W. Service."

But you can't stop Hamish once he gets in one of his romantic moods, and he led us to the nearest saloon. It was quite a colorful place, decorated with totem poles and moccasins made in Japan, and there was a long mahogany bar. Hamish put his foot on the rail and nodded to the bartender.

"Ask the boys in the back room what they'll have," said Hamish.

"The only back room," said the bartender, "is the wash room, and that is unoccupied at the moment."

"Where's the kid that handles the music box?" asked Hamish, undismayed. The bartender pointed to a multi-colored juke box in the corner, from which a familiar and shattering voice was issuing forth. It was Johnny Ray singing "Cry."

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT

Well, Hamish didn't have any poke of dust to put on the bar, but Little Augie had a couple of Canadian dollars, and after an extended argument about the five per cent premium (which we lost), we stood up to the bar and had beers. With these we were each given a

When Man's Fancy Turns To Hunting

PORTAGE, Wis. (AP) Autumnal note:

Two motorists involved in a minor collision yesterday explained to authorities they'd been admiring a flight of ducks winging across the highway instead of keeping an eye on the road.

How To Say Los Angeles The Right Way

LOSS AN-JUH-LESS, (AP)—Now you know how to pronounce the name of the city of the Angels. And it's official—even to the phonetic spelling.

A jury of civic leaders had hoped to agree on a pronunciation in time for Los Angeles' 71st birthday Sept. 4. But they split on whether the "G" should be hard or soft.

They met again and voted 19 to 1 in favor of the softer accent. Henceforth, it's to be a Loss An-Jh-Less, with the accent on the first syllable.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron, a hard-"G" man himself, issued a proclamation making it official and added that for him it would mean "changing the habit of a lifetime."

EXPLODING

(Continued from Page 1)

demolition work but it was the first time they had disposed of one on this coast.

Lt. Ackerman came to B.C. two months ago to replace Lt. Cmdr. Edward Borradaile who was killed last June when a mine he was demolishing on Bonilla Island exploded. His assistant, PO Donald Ross, was injured.

Lt. Ackerman is a veteran of the last war. He joined the RCN in Toronto in 1940 and after four years on trawlers and tankers was transferred to the Pacific Coast.

He plied the coast aboard the minesweeper HMCS St. Joseph and was aboard the patrol vessel HMCS Shediak on this coast when the war ended.

After hostilities, he took his discharge but rejoined a year and a half ago to specialize in underwater swimming and diving and took a six months course at the U.S. Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School at Indian Head, Maryland, before returning to the Pacific Coast.

He is 32 years old, married, has three-year-old twin girls—Susan and Sally—and another two-month-old daughter, Lawrence.

GUNNER

PO. Drew joined the navy in Calgary in 1940 and had varied experience before he took the course at Indian Head in 1950. He served for eight months aboard the Prince Robert, was a gunner on merchant ships, including the Princess Marguerite, for three years.

He spent some time on the Uganda and Ontario and in 1949 took an ordnance course at HMCS Naden before going to Maryland. He is married and has a six-year-old daughter.

Lt. Ackerman at present is in charge of training naval recruits at Naden in underwater swimming and diving and demolition work.

The two men were scheduled to leave here by RCAF plane today for their base.

HISTORIC TOWN

St. George, the first settlement of Bermuda, still has many of the original 17th century buildings.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCE

In a California pipe-smoking contest, the winner kept going on one light for 67 minutes. If he's ever in Canada and needs a job he might just as well remain away from a big plant run by a man named Eddy.

A Vancouver doctor, discovering a five-year-old refusing to do as he was told, promptly spanked the child. The medicine man was fined a ten spot. A rather costly penalty for performing what was plainly needed, anyway. Only selection of the child was an error of judgment.

BOTH FINE

Word from the Maritimes says it's easier to buy a British Columbia grown Macintosh Red in the Annapolis valley, than it is discovering a juice-busting Gravenstein that never heard of the Okanagan and has no wish to.

A card showing a pioneer banquet held by the Typographical Union in Empress Hotel, July 3, 1911, came our way last week. It belongs to Bill Sherman. It's hard to recognize anyone after 41 years. We spotted, from the twenty present, Sid Macdonald, Alex Grey, Sandy Gazely, Ben Self, a piano player known as "Coffee," and a few more, the identity of which remains uncertain. But there's no question whatever as to the grandeur of the occasion.

Eighty thousand men and about 175 ships are taking part in invasion tactics off the British Isles and North Sea regions. It isn't war, but next thing to it. And, by jingo, not all the enemy craft sunk are classified enemy.

IT CAN BE HEARD!

Police of Great Britain are said to be seeking a Canadian accent. There isn't any. But you can find more than one, should you listen carefully. Know Halifax? Down there they sometimes say "hair" for "hair" or "cheer" for "chair." And there are lots of Canucks who speak much the same as those who dwell in parts of New York state.

The father of the Dionne quintuplets, now that they are young ladies instead of children, announces they will study the development of home life which takes money. The quintuplets have it and not in small figures.

Bellhops Warn Guests of Fire

VANCOUVER (CP)—A team of four bellhops crawled through second-storey smoke-filled corridors in Hotel Vancouver Saturday night to arouse guests as fire swept through the sample room. Damage was confined there. About 300 dancers were evacuated from the roof cabaret.

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Tourist Trade Main Industry Of Bermuda

MONTREAL — While trade remains the mainstay, new developments underway in Bermuda... Lieut.-General Sir Hogg, GBE, KCB, CVO, Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda who arrived last week... firms are opening branches in Bermuda. But he said despite these new developments tourists would continue to be the main industry of Bermuda... "The number of tourists visiting Bermuda is increasing year," the distinguished statesman said, "that while there are 40,000 inhabitants, there are more than 80,000 tourists every year."

He did not feel the loss of the pound sterling Bermuda had any effect on its trade. People from North America continue to visit the island on a short distance from the island.

A frequent visitor to the Governor, who has been three years of his five as the Queen's representative on the island, is taking a vacation in the Laurentian mountains of Quebec before

More Mi Downed Sabre Jet

SEOUL, Korea (CP)—States Sabre jet plane reported they shot down probably destroyed and damaged two in air over North Korea.

The air force also said Allied fighter-bombers crashing aerial blow at industrial complex at near the Manchurian Targets included a plant, alcohol distilling rope factory.

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