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PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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H. F. PULLEN, Managing Editor.

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Knowing Own City Important Duty.

A great many people in Prince Rupert have never visited the cold storage plant, never been through a salmon cannery, have not watched a ship go into drydock, have never realized that there is a railway shop here, have not been out on the new road toward Galloway Rapids, have not visited the power plant at Shawatlans and Woodworth Lake, have never been around Kaien Island, have not climbed the mountain behind the town, and some even have not visited the Salt Lake. McClymont Park has also probably escaped their notice. There are a great many other places to visit and things to see. Why not see them?

All Should Help New Fair Board.

A new fair board has been elected. It is headed by W. D. Vance with R. E. Benson a capable vice-president and Howard Frizzell, secretary. Soon a managing secretary will be appointed and then everything will be ready for the annual campaign.

We suggest that it will be for the benefit of the city and the good of everyone if all get behind the new board and try to make the fair this year a great success. Doubtless the new officers will have some new ideas which they will work out to make the fair better and different from the ordinary. Some suggestions were made at the annual meeting and others can be incorporated in the program. In unity there is strength, but individuality is desirable in the laying of plans. Whatever is decided on should be backed wholeheartedly by the people who have appointed the officers for the year.

Congratuations To Premier King.

Premier Mackenzie King is to be congratulated on his return in Prince Albert constituency by such a large majority. That he wond be elected seemed assured but that he should get such enormous support was hardly to have been expected. Apparently the people of Prince Albert appreciate the fight the Premier is putting up against enormous odds.

The result of the election is not very encouraging to those opponents of the government who have been clamoring for another appeal to the country in the hope that the protectionists might be returned if another election should be held.

The Liberal Government, supported by the Progressive and Labor members, will now have an opportunity to carry on and secure the passage of such laws as will be beneficial to the country and especially the West. If they are obstructed by the opposition they will then have good reason to ask the country to decide once more what sort of government it wants.

Policy Of Obstruction Is Objectionable.

Reasonable opposition in Parliament is all right but a policy of deliberate obstruction is always objectionable. The Conservatives, led by Hon. Arthur Meighen, are holding up the business of the country with no apparent object in view except the desire to oust the present government. The people do not like that sort of policy.

There was an election in October at which Conservatives asked the people to elect them. They failed to secure a majority of the members and, according to our system of Parliamentary practice, they should accept this defeat gracefully and try to aid the government in its work while carefully scrutinizing all legislation and taking exception where they see fit.

Today they are refusing to allow the government to proceed by lengthening unduly the debate on the address and by offering numerous amendments to it and debating them. The government may have to apply the closure, but that is objectionable. The Conservatives do not seem to know when they are beaten.

You have to chew

SHREDDED WHEAT

That means sound, healthy teeth

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

An Essay prepared by two pupils of the High School, Jean Grieve and Arthur Cade, Junior Matriculation Class

From the beginning of time man has expressed his thoughts through spoken words, painting or writing. To this day we have everlasting proofs, engraved on imperishable rocks, of the prehistoric man's first attempts at writing. Gradually these rough sketches improved until finally a written language was perfected. Year by year, century by century, more and more books, each representing months, some years of labor, were slowly completed. Each line was done by hand until printing, one of the greatest boons to mankind, was first invented.

Up to that time, if all the books in the world, representing years of labor, were placed side by side with those edited since printing began to be used, they would appear insignificant. In early times a library would be considered large if it contained only ten or fewer books, but today nothing is counted as a real library unless it contains hundreds of volumes.

Tier Upon Tier

A modern library is usually an immense thing. Shelf after shelf, tier upon tier, containing millions of books is often an ordinary sight to greet the eyes in any large city. Great libraries, from which hundreds of books are taken to be loaned, need many librarians to care for them, arrange them and see that all books are safely returned. The card catalog system of modern libraries is so cross indexed as to permit ready access to any specific, detailed information. Some libraries, especially those of the government, deal only with certain subjects. For example, the Department of Health would have its own library. The most common classes into which books are divided are: Fiction, Science, History, Biography, Philosophy, and other less important ones.

Private libraries cannot of course contain such a variety nor wide choice of material as the public ones but the books are always well kept, and, in those of eager or wealthy collectors the books are very valuable and contain the best literature. In private libraries are often found ancient books valuable only for their antiquity. There are others which would be interesting to all, but because they are so rare they cannot be circulated by a large public library.

Valuable to Student

The most useful is the public library. These are maintained by every city with a population large enough to allow it. Any person whatsoever, rich or poor, student or laborer, may go to these. They are valuable especially to the student who is lacking the means to purchase all the books necessary for reference and to the working man desirous of reading those books which would give him reliable information to help him in his profession. Another whom the public library benefits greatly is the invalid eager for entertainment.

One of the public library's great advantages is the wide range of choice of material not available in private ones. On one subject alone, for instance, "Travelling in the South Seas," one might find one hundred different books in a large fully equipped library. Another advantage is that of having librarians well acquainted with literary works and having an extensive knowledge of all the books most beneficial and interesting to the reader.

Bookless Lives

No bookless life, however full and rich, can have touched all the innumerable aspects of life now being lived on this planet. Hence it cannot have the range and color of a life to which books have brought knowledge and understanding of the whole planet and of the lives lived by all sorts and kinds and conditions of people whom we could never hope to meet intimately or at all.

Books or libraries cannot take the place of life. Books cannot give us what experience can give us. But books can widen and enlarge life illimitably. And books can clarify and enrich experience.

In The Letter Box

EDUCATION AND INTELLIGENCE.

Editor Daily News,

It may have been a coincidence that today's issue of the News should carry the report of the debate in London between F. A. Mitchell-Hedges, the explorer, and Miss Ellen Wilkenson, M.P. on the "Need for a Male Revival," alongside the report from Vancouver that a boat was under consruction at Hoffer's shipyard for the Biological station at Nanaimo, but in these two items there is much food for thought.

Little Puff Balls

Mr. Mitchell-Hedges points out the decline of the human male and among other things mentions a dance he witnessed where the young men were presented with "Little puff-balls which they threw about gleefully while the ladies looked on scornfully." This brought to mind an editorial in the Vancouver Province some weeks ago which read as follows: "An educator of long experience and close observation says the chief trouble with college students is that they do not use their brains. They listen to lectures and absorb information that is handed to them, he says, but in general seem to be unable to digest the knowledge or do much thinking on their own account. . . . The easy thing to do is to slide along in the old way, to follow the well worn grooves and channels, to act as others do, to fall in line and patiently wait their turn, to dodge obstacles instead of surmounting them or removing them and thus play their little parts. . . . . Man's material advancement has been far more rapid than his mental progress. It was Disraeli who remarked that comforts, material things, had often been mistaken for civilization . . . . . It is the thinking part of man that is needed most these days. Use of the mind does not mean an easy course ahead, but it does promise a reasonably safe course."

Cruise in Craft

After having read Mr. Mitchell-Hedges remarks on the decline of the male, it was only natural to read the next item of news about the new biological boat, above referred to, which followed on this page of your paper. It was interesting to note that the "Students from the University of B.C. will cruise with the craft to study marine biology."

The Canadian Government has been spending something like forty thousand dollars a year for the past twenty-eight years on this Biological board to provide a sort of plaything for college professers and students and the B.C. Fisheries Commission of 1922 called attention to the absence of practical results to show what the tax payers had obtained for their money.

And now while the fishermen ply the high seas for food for us the government is to provide this new vessel for students to "thoroughly prospect British Columbia waters in order to collect samples of all marine growth and bring them back to the laboratory of the University." If any results have been obtained by the Biological board of the Dominion it is to deprive the fishermen of a livelihood for three months of the year. And who is there among us that will say that there is "need for male revival" among those that ply along our seven thousand miles of seacoast in search of food for our people? Who ever heard of a man going to a university for the purpose of preparing himself for the life of a fisherman? Who ever heard of fishermen throwing "little puffballs about gleefully?"

Inherited Quality

Floyd Parsons in an article in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post pointed out some interesting camparisons between Education and Intelligence. "Intelligence" he says, "Is that inherited quality which allows a fellow to get along without an education. Education, on the other hand, is what is given to some of us so we can get along without intelligence."

Perhaps some of our fishermen are lacking in education, but who will question the intelligence of a man who can navigate a vessel, manipulate a gas engine and fishing gear, and at the same time catch hundreds of tons of fish along a seacoast of several thousand miles and market them under present competitive condition at a profit?

Prospecting for Fish

Surely the Biological Board will not allow the tax-payers' money to be spent for the amusement of college students when the fishermen have a right to expect that their government, boasting fishery resources second to none in the world, should do some prospecting for their benefit instead of depriving them of a livelihood for a quarter of the year and tying up their investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars for a like period. There is some food for thought in that statement contained in the B.C. Fisheries Commission report of 1922 which is as follows:

"There is no doubt at all that for many years those in high places owing to inability or failure in some way to appreciate the importance of the industry, have looked on fishery administration as of such little account as to allow it to become a sort of deparmental football."

There are millions of dollars spent on education now. Is it necessary that the small appropriations made for the benefit of the fishing industry be diverted to this channel too?

Yours truly,
CHAS. FOLSOM.

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