

an independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

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Take Off the Blinkers

IT IS quite safe to predict that the busiest body in town for some time to come will be the housing authority designated to administer the 50 rental homes now under construction.

Of all the matters awaiting action in Prince Rupert, none is more pressing than the housing problem. Well before the present project was started it was established that there was an urgent demand for at least 100 new houses.

To draw the fine line of distinction which will cut off all but the lucky 50 is the task immediately confronting the housing committee.

Some of the strain would be off the committee if there was another housing project of similar size and nature now underway.

The reason for delay in this connection has never been given with any clarity.

In other words, the scheme is opposed because it does not look good in principle.

Yet those same families are now occupying shacks, cellars and attics at rents just as high, and higher.

Middle of the Compass

NEWS that Prince Rupert is about to receive its first cargo direct from the Asiatic coast since the days before World War I causes one to realize that the city is in a position to enjoy fresh prosperity from all four main points of the compass.

Arrival of the Japanese ship could easily herald the opening of new business on our long-neglected western approaches.

To the north the prospects have taken more definite shape with the industrial development of Alaska.

To the east there is the bright picture of growing communities all along the line.

To the east, too, there is the possibility that one day grain will flow by rail from the Peace River country.

To the south is the vast development of Alean. So far its effect on Prince Rupert has been confined mainly to the shipment of machinery and equipment through this port.

Literally and figuratively, a place in the middle of the compass has its points.

HERE and NOW

By LARRY STANWOOD

THIS COLUMN on

Tuesday attempted to provoke some thinking by suggesting that the present eight-man city council of Prince Rupert be reduced to six aldermen to provide more democratic elections and greater efficiency in administration.

Civic elections in Prince Rupert are less than three weeks away; nomination day is less than two weeks away and there still hasn't been a move towards the city clerk's office by anyone to file nomination papers.

Two aldermen, Darrow Gomez and Ray McLean, say they will run again.

Ald. George Hills, also MLA for Prince Rupert, will abstain from running in order to devote more time to politics.

And no one outside the council even has been suggested as a likely candidate for office.

That leaves the situation in a worse plight than it was last year when four candidates gained their seats by acclamation.

Not Enough . . .

It appears that for some reason, Prince Rupert can no longer provide enough candidates for civic government.

And that leads us to an alternative provided for by a Provincial act, which is proving successful in one B.C. city and in 35 other cities in Canada—that of a council-manager system of civic government.

There are many citizens in Prince Rupert highly qualified for aldermanic posts; there are but few of them who would devote some of their time in such a service to the community.

And there is, no doubt, available a man of executive ability capable of carrying out the administrations of a city manager.

Citizens . . .

According to statistics, this system is at present working very satisfactorily in 1,047 municipalities in the United States where it first started in 1908.

A city manager is an appointed executive, or administrator, who is capable of co-ordinating all departments of civic government in accordance with policies and plans approved and established by the council, an elected body.

The activities of municipal government have grown to such an extent in Prince Rupert in the last few years that more and more detail has come up before the council with the result that the overall civic organization has become knotted in tight little groups which aldermen as committee heads have endeavored to administer.

Who Care

This condition has a tendency not only to lead to confusion but also to the formation of separate and competing little governments within the council, which is not co-ordination. This is quite understandable, because policy making and the responsibility for administration can not go hand in hand.

A council-manager plan is obviously the answer in such a community as Prince Rupert. In all likelihood, four aldermen and a mayor under such a plan would be ample.

What's more, systematic co-ordination among all city departments—which is the main aim of such a system—should prove to be a major money saving device for the municipality in the resultant greater efficiency and less waste of time and labor.

A city municipal manager system, under the Municipal Manager Act of B.C. can be instituted in any municipality through by-law which must be presented to the electors on demand of a petition signed by five per cent of the municipality's tax payers.

This column, next Tuesday, will seek to clarify the duties of a municipal manager and his relation with city council.

Bringing Up Father By G. McManus



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UNDER OUR ROOF By JOHN STURDY

It is now almost two weeks since Armistice Day and the annual Veterans' Dinner here on the Island, and they are still being flushed out of the woods—the veterans, that is.

At the last Legion roll-call it was reported that three members were still missing (two 1939-45ers and one Boer War laddie), and the president said that was a pretty good average for the Island.

The announcement of the dinner caused some embarrassment around the old homestead. Naturally Col. S. Skeffington-Smuts (Ret.) was a veteran, his record going back to the Ashanti Wars, or something like that.

FELT BAD

We felt pretty badly about it. We had a meeting in the Colonel's room (I came over from the shed for the occasion) and we tried to figure out some way of not hurting Little Augie's feelings.

Well, after much discussion, we decided to tell Little Augie that we had been invited to a bridge party, which seemed an excellent excuse, because there is nothing Little Augie hates more than a game of cards unless it is the kind where you deal five to a customer and the deuces are sometimes wild.

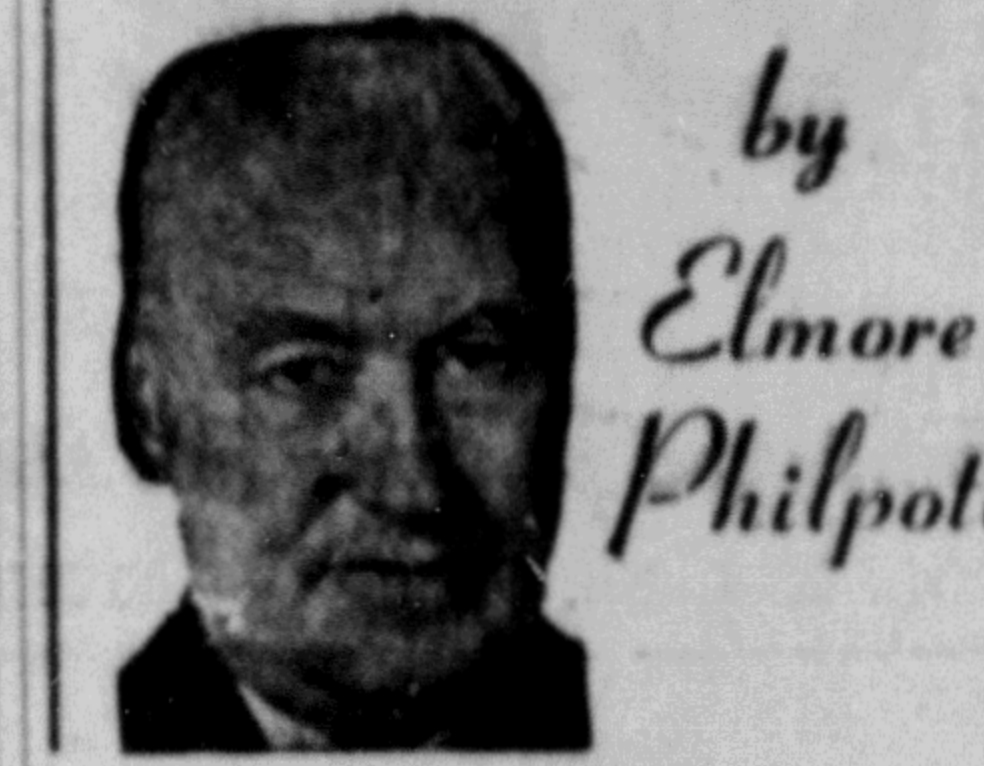
So the night came for the Veterans' Dinner and it was around six o'clock when I ran across Little Augie in front of the house. He was dressed in his best pin-stripe suit with the hand-painted tie and the canary yellow shoes and he had a very serious look on his face.

What is the mater, Little Augie? I asked. "It's the Colonel," he said. "I'm disgusted. In fact, pal, I'm mortified."

DISGUSTED "It's not what he's done. It's what he isn't going to do. Now, I can understand you and Hamish. If you didn't have the courage to enlist, or if you were physically or mentally unfit, then it is not your fault you are not a veteran.

Well, you could knock me over with the breeze from a boat-swain's pipe. I stared at Little Augie and it took me several

As I See It by Elmore Philpott



Teacups Not Hiccups

RADIUM Hot Springs, B.C.—Here in the finest outdoor hot swimming pool in all the world I float on my back and look up at the Rocky Mountains.

The evergreens are covered with a thin mantle of soft white snow—like a lace veil on the dark hair of a Kashmir lady.

I am at peace with all the world, when I can keep away a bit from my friend in the pool who is feverently trying to convince me of the wonders of the garlic cure.

I CHUCKLE to myself to think of what a huge joke this by-election is. People up here are sure bending their elbows, but as they never did in any election of yore.

My mother was born in her father's hotel at Brampton, Ontario, and at age 87 her memory is clear. When she was a tiny girl, she says, the great Tory leader Sir John A. Macdonald used to visit the inn, and mother remembers the group singing "The Man on the Flying Trapeze" or something rollicking like that.

Sir John A. would surely be surprised if he could come back to see this by-election, for this is a battle of teacups, not hiccups. If this lasts much longer, all the political big-shots will be down with a new occupational disease, politicians' elbow, something like housemaids' knee.

THE SOCIAL Crediters know very well that they could be beaten in this by-election by the combined common-sense of the regular supporters of the Liberal, Conservative and CCF parties.

Everywhere they whisper to Liberals or Conservatives. "Oh, sure, we know very well that the Liberals could win this by-election. But if Social Credit loses, the Lieutenant-Governor would be compelled to dismiss the present government and call on Harold Winch to head a CCF government."

This, of course, is a flagrant untruth—downright nonsense. The present government of B.C. will remain the government until it resigns, or is beaten either in the Legislature on a straight vote of "no confidence."

FAR FROM upsetting the applecart in B.C. the defeat of the Liberal would have the immediate effect of stabilizing politics in this province. Instead of bringing on another provincial general election, just before the federal election—with a view to using B.C. as a springboard to a federal mix-up—the chastened Social Credit ministry would be compelled to settle down to serious government.

The B.C. government would no longer be available as a cat's paw for Low and Co.

ELECTION of the Liberal would mean that the people of B.C. would be able to choose between the Liberal, Conservative, CCF and Social Credit parties to form the real government after the next province-wide election.

That would be a bad thing for B.C. and would lead to a political disaster across all Canada.

EVERYONE ELSE DOES Closing time in England for stores has been six o'clock. Now, the prospect is eight o'clock. Surely to Heavens, proprietors and clerks know what year this is.

One will look a long time before seeing marriage principals not wearing smiles, as well as their costliest clothes. However, poor thing, she's not dreaming it may all mean less money and more work.

LETTERBOX

DETESTS DRINKING Editor, The Daily News: Surely it is one's privilege in this free country to voice one's objections to a curse that is flooding our country, destroying our youth, befuddling the minds of many of our smartest men and women who could be a blessing to our times.

GO TO CHURCH Editor, Daily News: To curb moral delinquency and the moral re-education program let us keep reminding the public that churches they may join are baptised any day.

Peacetime U OSLO, Norway (CP)—auxiliary engines, always the German pocket battleship, sunk by allied planes near Tromsø in the World War, have been conditioned and sold. One electricity for homes in the port of Henningsvåg.

WANTED

PART-TIME SECRETARY-MANAGER for the PRINCE RUPERT HOUSING AUTHORITY Salary \$100 per month plus additional honorarium for first four months.

USED CARS and TRUCKS

- 2—1949 Studebaker Champion Sedans \$138
2—1949 Austin Panels \$88
1—1949 Flying Standard Coach \$58
1—1949 Monarch Sedan \$118
1—1949 International 3/4-ton panel \$218
1—1948 Austin Sedan \$78

See the NEW 1952 Ingle WASHER

Guaranteed to last longer with NEW HERCULES MECHANISM. Guaranteed for five years. GUARANTEED TO WASH CLEAN. Actual tests prove "INGLES" washes clothes cleaner regardless of the soap you use.