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Take Off the Blinkers

T 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 pert are less than three weeks problem. Well before the present project was started it was established that there was an urgent demand for at least 100 new houses. Since then the number of those without satisfactory accommodation has, if anything, increased, and many of them will have equally justified reasons why they should receive priority.

To draw the fine line of distinction which will cut off all but the lucky 50 is the task immediately confronting the housing committee. There is no doubt that at first it will feel swamped by the volume of applications, but it is also certain that the particular five chosen for the work have the qualities necessary to reach the fairest solution possible.

Some of the strain would be off the committee if there was another housing project of similar size and nature now underway. The absence of any such scheme is going to be felt keenly, for it takes the better part of a year to transform the first tentative plans into completed buildings. This means that if nothing is done until the present new homes are occupied, Prince Rupert will have no additional accommodation on an organized basis until 1954. By that time it is probable that the demand will be even greater than it is now.

The reason for delay in this connection has never been given with any clarity. Those who oppose the present housing development contend that the rental rates put the homes beyond the fair limits of more of the neediest families.

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

In other words, the scheme is opposed because it does not look good in principle, which leaves the way wide open for landlords whose principles are much less scrupulous. It is time the fancy blinkers were removed and the houses built.

Middle of the Compass

N IEWS that Prince Rupert is about to receive its V'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. As the closest Canadian transportation centre to Japan, this port is in logically the best location to receive the full benefits of whatever trade agreement R. W. Mayhew is able to effect with that country as Canadian ambassador.

To the north the prospects have taken more definite shape with the industrial development of Alaska. Already Prince Rupert is preparing to do Who Core business with Ketchikan through construction of the new pulp and paper company there, and other Alaskan industries with similar requirements appear likely.

To the east there is the bright picture of growing communities all along the line. With establishment of Columbia Cellulose here, Terrace took a leap and is still going up. Further east the same fresh activity is duplicated right to Prince George with the measure of its extent being shown in the added business the CNR is doing along the whole Smithers division.

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. But, however indirectly, the effect will grow. As Kitimat becomes established and new industries are attracted to the area, it will, for one thing, become more profitable for transportation companies to increase their coastal service. This alone would fill a large gap in Prince Rupert's needs.

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

HERE 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 Ruaway; nomination day is less than two weeks away and there still hasn't been a move toward: the city clerk's office by anyone to file nomination papers, albei there are four aldermanic seats open for contest.

Two aldermen, Darrow Gomez and Ray McLean, say they loesn't know yet, but says he

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 counci

even has been suggested likely candidate for office. That leaves the situation in

worse plight than it was last year when four candidates gained their seats by acclamation.

Not Enough . . .

longer provide enough candidates for civic government. It appears that even a six-member council

native provided for by a Provin- erans' Dinner lasted until Chri cial act, which is proving suc- mas and even on New Year's Day cessful in one B.C. city and in old Jock MacMurray was 35 other cities in Canada—that covered on the top of our loca of a council-manager system of mountain, still playing "Road civic government.

Prince Rupert highly qualified that, but I have been to a but few of them who would de- the Veterans' Dinner on vote some of their time in such Island, even today, is unique a service to the community.

And there is, no doubt, avail- sider it something of a vict able a man of executive ability on my part to be able to be ministrations of a city manager. at this date. Therein could very well exist the nucleus of the future civic government of this city-say four sound and responsible aldermen a mayor, and a city manager.

Citizens . . .

According to statistics, this Ashanti Wars, or something system is at present working that, and Hamish had served very satisfactorily in 1,047 muni- the 1914-18 war. I had It's growth has been concen- But there was Little Augie. in the U.S. and in Canada, mainly much needed as in industry.

an extent in Prince Rupert in or reach for his gat. 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 comadministrate.

This condition has a tendency not only to lead to confusion but also to the formation of separate and competing little govern ments within the council, which policy making and the responsibility for administration can not canary yellow shoes and he their slopes. It all fascinates and go hand in hand.

A council-manager plan is obviously the answer in such a community is Prince Rupert. In Augie?" I asked. all likelihood, four aldermen and a mayor under such a plan would be ample. There is only I'm mortified." that number who are likely to "What's the Colonel done? volunteer as candidates anyway, DISGUSTED and the people's choice therefore would be that much more em-

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 bytition signed by five per cent of

the municipality's tax payers. This column, next Tuesday, will seek to clarify the duties of relation with city council.

By G.McManus Bringing Up Father



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 was reported that three me for some laddie), and the president sal no that was a pretty good average And that leads us to an alter- | member one year when the Ve

To The Isles" on his bagpipe There are many citizens in | Well, I wouldn't know about for aldermanic posts; there are of reunions and can testify that capable of carrying out the ad- the keys of a typewriter, even

dinner caused some embarrassment around the oid homestead Naturally Col. S. Skeffington Smutts (Ret.) was a vetera his record going back to cipalities in the United States along around 1939, and that

We felt pretty badly about it. realize that through such a plan We had a meeting in the Colbusiness-like methods can be onel's room (I came over from more readily introduced into the shed for the occasion) and civic affairs where they are as we tried to figure out some way of not hurting Little Augie's A city manager is an appointed feelings. Little Augie is a very executive, or administrator, who sensitive type, and what's more. It is an unlovely fact that tois capable of co-ordinating all he usually carries a gat in his day, in a land like South Africa, departments of civic government shoulder holster having been where the sky is so blue, the air in accordance with policies and king of the blind-pig operators plans approved and established Back East in the old days, and by the council, an elected body, sometimes it is just as well not The activities of municipal to hurt his feelings. You never past as well as present. government have grown to such know if he'll break into tears

> is nothing Little Augie hates blacks themselves. more than a game of cards unhad a very serious look on his lives in memory.

"I'm disgusted, In fact,

I can understand you and Ham- approximately 340,000 thousand. What's more, systematic co- ish. If you didn't have the courage to enlist, or if you were LOOKING AROUND physically or mentally unfit. A casual drive or stroll will are not a veteran. But this Col- Along her scenic miles onel. He's always beating gums about his service in the army and now comes along a Veterans' Dinner and he goes out and plays bridge."

> Little Augie shrugged are you going, Little Augie?" "To the Veterans' Dinner.

Where else?"

a municipal manager and his swain's pipe. I stared at Little has over seven million natives. It may all mean less money and

What service?'

"The army." IN THE ARMY

and Germany, and then I asked him what unit he had been with

'Well, for a man with my thing like housemaids' knee. tanding in the community, it is," said Little Augie. "After I have to be thinking of my mad at anybody-because everyreputation. However, pal, if you body goes to everybody else's promise not to tell a living soul, tea parties. I will let you know the truth. He took a deep sigh. "I was in THE SOCIAL Crediters know

the Provost Corps," he said. Well, I kept Little Augie's secret and all four of us went the dinner and had a wonderful time, and except for the that the Colonei is one of those still missing in the woods, was a great day.

ray...

Reflects and Reminisces

so clear and the climate such a delight, the Union should not know peace, rather than strife

OLDEST OF ALL

Well, after much discussion, cities, was founded in 1692. Yet, cart in B.C. the defeat of the we decided to tell Little Augie down through the centuries if Social Credit candidate by the that we had been invited to a there has not been struggle, there Liberal would have the immebridge party, which seemed an has been something similar diate effect of stabilizing polities excellent excuse, because there among varied nationals, and the in this province. Instead of strength resources

around six o'clock when I ran British Columbia has noble peaks lous government. across Little Augie in front of along her shores but not one is the house. He was dressed in similar to Table Mountain. So no longer be available best pin-stripe suit with does the Lions Head attract as the hand-painted tie and the well as the silky silver trees along paw for Low and Co.

Cape of Good Hope. Spring is the Liberal, Conservative, CCF during September, October, No- and Social Credit parties to form January, February; autumn- next province-wide election. March, April, May; winter- Election of the Social Credit June, July, August. Christmas is would clear the way for eliminawarm and brilliant. There is no tion of all but Social Credit and "It's not what he's done. It's winter, as understood in Can- CCF. what he isn't going to do. Now, ada. Capetown's population is

then it is not your fault you show you plenty. Here's a few: beaches, suburbs, Table Mountain aerial cableway, golf links, seafishing, yachting, badminton, Kirstenbosch Park, parliament law which must be presented to shoulders. "Well, see you later, (anything like a full listing of the electors on demand of a pe- pal," he said, and I said: "Where what is on exhibit is impossible), and an art gallery.

> Well, you could knock me over by the South African Railways their costliest clothes. However, with the breeze from a boat- and harbors is 13,900. The Union poor thing, she's not dreaming Augie and it took me several Kruger National Park is the more work.



Teacups Not Hiccups

outdoor hot swimming pool in all the world float on my back and look up at the Rocky Moun-

snow-like a lace veil on the

father's hotel at Brampton, On- erences to it in conde tario, and at age 87 her memor; The Man on the Flying Trapeze" or something rollicking like hat. She is still a staunch Tory but adamant against liquor.

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, some-

But seriously it is all grand all, fun. Besides nobody can get very

> very well that they could be beaten in this by-cleetic regular supporters of the Liberal, Conservative and CCF parties Hence they are pinning their en tire campaign on a balloonwhich could be pricked disas-

Everywhere they whisper Liberals or Conservatives:

"Oh, sure, we know very we! that the Liberals could win this by-election. But If Social Credi the Lieutenant-Governor would be compelled to dismiss the present gove.nment and call on Harold Winch to head a CCI

This, of course, is a flagran 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,"

Capetown, oldest of all her FAR FROM upwetting the apple bringing on another provincial general election, just before the less it is the kind where you. A hundred and fifty years ago, federal election-with a view to deal five to a customer and Britain gained control. One using B.C. as a springboard to a the deuces are sometimes wild, would think it must have been federal mix-up—the chastened So the night came for the intended for mankind to be Social Credit ministry would be Veterans' Dinner and it was happy here. Nature did her part, compelled to settle down to ser

mean that the people of B.C. Seasons are different at the would be able to choose between vember; summer - December, the real government after the

That would be a bad thing for ical disaster across all Canada.

stores has been six o'clock. Now, Cecil Rhodes in '92), Clarento Surely to Heavens, proprietors,

One will look a long time before seeing marriage principals The mileage of line controlled not wearing smiles, as well as

L'ETTER BOX

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My mother was born in her on all things, we find many ref

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