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PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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THE NEW YEAR

In the New Year which begins tomorrow, we hope Prince Rupert people and the people of the whole of Northern and Central British Columbia, most of whom read the Daily News, will be successful, cheerful, healthy and therefore happy. We wish them enough wealth to keep them from want and enough adversity to keep them from deteriorating.

We believe that the year 1928 will see great happenings in Prince Rupert. We have consulted the horoscope and see there a new era of advancement coming from an unexpected source. This will put new hope, new life, new vim into us all and help us to realize that for which we have been patiently waiting and feebly struggling.

We hope that some definite step will be taken to make Prince Rupert the outlet of the Peace River country. We believe there is nothing to fear from the extension of the P.G.E. to Prince George but that from that point or some other on the Canadian National northward the line will be built by one of the big transportation companies. If it is not, it should be. To help a private company would be but to invite ultimate disaster.

THE PAST AND FUTURE

The past year has been a quiet one in every respect, yet advancement has been made. A commencement was made on the paving of the city with concrete sidewalks, on the trunk sewer which was badly needed and good progress was made on the road which is the beginning of the Skeena Highway.

The end of the civic year is approaching and good candidates are offering for the position of mayor. Prince Rupert can make no mistake in supporting any one of them.

Prince Rupert has been fighting her way to the fore as a seaport. The first step has been taken in establishing this as a grain port. During the year other developments may be expected that should be even more important than the elevator.

People sometimes get tired of hearing us sound a cheerful note of hope and faith in regard to the future of the city. We wish, however, to say that we are just as optimistic as ever in regard to the future of Prince Rupert. We feel that there are great things ahead for us and that the day is not far distant when we shall begin to feel a change.

C.P.R. AND PRINCE RUPERT

The suggestion was made yesterday that the C.P.R. should build the western outlet to the Peace River and that the company should get running rights over the Canadian National and make its terminus at Prince Rupert. We are not concerned over which company builds the line as long as it comes to the Canadian National line at or west of Prince George. We believe this to be the natural outlet although we also admit there are good arguments in favor of Portland Canal. If the C.P.R. decided to come here, Prince Rupert would welcome the big company, but we hardly think it likely that such will be the case. We look to the C.N.R. as the natural system to serve the great northern section of the country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRACE

Terrace is about to set out as a village municipality. It is already incorporated and when it has complied with the necessary forms and elected officers for the year it will be ready to do business. It is probably the beginning of a period of improvement for the community. Of one thing it is necessary to warn and that is against spending too much money and thus so increasing the taxes that the cost of living there is too great. However, roads are easy to build, and sewers to dig and there is plenty of gravel close by for concrete sidewalks. Possibly that new village will give Prince Rupert a lead in some things.

REDUCE DEBT OF DOMINION

Expected That Matter Will be Dealt With at Coming Session

(By R. J. Deachman)

A real problem is that of debt reduction. For some years now the reduction has been fairly steady. Last year's final figures revealed the largest net surplus in Canadian history. Some people—as for instance, the Canadian Shoe Manufacturers, are urging the government to reduce taxes rather than reduce the debt. On the other hand, there are far sighted people who urge the other side of the problem—reduce debt and thereby you will reduce taxes. Between the two, Mr. Robb may be expected to take a middle course.

It will be recalled that some time ago the Canadian Bond Dealers suggested the definite appropriation of approximately $23,000,000 a year for debt reduction. More than that amount is now being applied to that purpose, but there is danger when debt reduction is not definitely budgeted, that a raid will be made on the treasury. The picture of a finance minister sitting, gun in hand on the treasury-chest, is not a mere fancy. It takes courage of a high order to meet and refuse the many demands. If on the other hand, definite provision were made for debt retirement, it would have a tendency to steady the situation.

Of course there is no law to prevent governments from ceasing to live a hand-to-mouth existence. There is no reason why expenditures—that is large and necessary expenditures, should not be made from previously accumulated funds. We have built the Welland Canal by votes from year to year. It would be interesting if some time, we adopted the course of building out of the surplusses of previous years.

How much better it would be if in these time of national prosperity, we put aside a sum for rainy day expenditures. Then when good times were over and trade slackening, we might open the savings and go ahead with some constructive enterprise—not only preparing for better times, but hastening its coming by our own thrift and provision.

There are many signs of gradually improving world conditions—this is an important matter to Canada, for Canada is one of the world's greatest export nations, but that can be left for my next letter. It fits in better at the opening of 1928.

THE BETTER OLE HERE MONDAY

Syd Chaplin as Old Bill Makes a Hit in Soldier Story so Well Known

"The trouble with Old Bill is 'e don't 'ave 'is mind on the war," said Alf, the little Cockney private. But Old Bill had more important things to think about. Especially his missus, Maggie, back in Blighty. Meanwhile, in back of the front at Boucaret, he has a chance, between air raids, to observe the incipient love affair between his pal, Bert, and Joan, the pretty sister of Gaspard, the innkeeper, and to make close 'armony with his other pal, Alf.

He does not notice the arrival of Major Russet of the Highgloom Guards, whirling into Boucaret on a motorcycle. So the hardboiled corporal, Quint, puts him on fatigue duty.

The Major adjourns to the cellar of the inn, where he confers with Gaspard, and together they are about to release a pigeon, with a message to the Germans advising them to attack at once. Old Bill, chasing a pig, tumbles into the cellar, grasps the situation, grapples with Gaspard, and ropes him, crying, "Spy!"

The Major orders everybody out and releases Gaspard, firing after him to divert suspicion. He reports to the General and is acclaimed a hero, while the pursuit of Gaspard begins.

That night, the soldiers stage an uproarious amateur show, replete with gags. Bill and Alf take part as the front and hind legs of a horse. Then the Germans attack. Bill and Alf are sewed in the fake horse's body too tightly to join in the general retreat.

There's more to it than that but the fun lies in the succession of gags.

"DON JUAN" SEEN AT THEATRE LAST NIGHT

"Don Juan," played at the Westholme last night, has been most familiarly known to lovers of literature through Lord Byron's unfinished poem of the youthful Spanish lover who conducted his amorous adventures all over the map of Europe. To music lovers there is only one Don Juan—the "Don Giovanni" of Mozart's opera. The theatre in modern times has produced a long series of Don Juans—Rostand's, Bernard Shaw's and Arnold Bennett's being the most prominent. These Don Juans have tended to rob the great lover of much of his magic glamour, but the old magic returns in the screen version, by Eess Meredyth. Here is the Don Juan of romance; as played by Barrymore, a convincing portrayal of the greatest lover of all ages.

CHIEF HAPPENINGS IN CANADA FOR 1927 OUTLINED BRIEFLY SHOWS THE YEAR TO HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT ONE

(continued from page one)

was one of great progress and prosperity. A bumper crop in the West was somewhat damaged by bad weather in the fall, yet the result was such as to send through the whole business and industrial community an electrifying influence which promises to make 1928 even more prosperous than the year of diamond jubilee.

POLITICS IN 1927

The year was, like most post-election years, a quiet one in federal politics. The session of the Dominion parliament was short and not exciting. Another Robb budget, reducing taxation, was adopted by the House of Commons on March 1. The Senate on March 24 passed Old Age Pensions Bill, which it had rejected the previous year, and already British Columbia and Yukon Territory have decided to co-operate with the Dominion in bringing it into force in their respective districts. Interim extra subsidies were voted to the Maritime Provinces.

Canada on May 30 terminated a trade agreement with the Soviet Republics in consequence of the continued anti-British propaganda from Moscow, but during the year new trade agreements were made with Czecho-Slovakia and Cuba.

Fort Churchill was definitely selected as the terminus of the Hudson's Bay Railway on August 10 after a visit from Frederick Palmer, an English expert, and reconstruction of the railway is being rushed.

NEW CONSERVATIVE LEADER

The regisnation by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, of the leadership of the Conservative Party in October, 1926, caused the holding of a great party convention at Winnipeg on October 10 and following days. Mr. Meighen was present and caused turmoil in the convention by, on the opening day, defending his Hamilton speech in which he advocated a general election in the event of war. He was answered by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, premier of Ontario, who repudiated such a policy with considerable force. On the third day the convention ballotted for a new leader, the choice falling upon Hon. R. B. Bennett, M.P. for Calgary, who will take command at the coming session, the leadership in the meantime having been conducted by Hon. Hugh Guthrie, M.P., of Guelph.

The Dominion and provinces met in conference at Ottawa on November 3 and for 10 days discussed various question in dispute between them. On the whole the spirit of the convention was good and indicated a national unity which augurs well for the future.

In British Columbia there was a change in the premiership owing to the death, on August 17, of Hon. John Oliver, who had been head of the government from 1918. Hon. J. D. Maclean, being sworn as the new premier on August 20.

RELATIONS WITH U.S.

One outstanding feature of the Diamond Jubilee Year was the rapprochement with the United States. On February 3 Hon. William Phillips, who had been American minister to Belgium, was appointed the first minister plenipotentiary to the Dominion of Canada. He presented his credentials to the governor-general and the government of Canada on June 2 and has since become a leading figure in Ottawa public life.

Hon. Vincent Massey, the first Canadian minister plenipotentiary to the United States, presented his credentials to President Coolidge on February 18. The Canadian delegation at Washington is now recognized by diplomats as one of the front rank.

On August 7 a notable international ceremony took place at Buffalo and Fort Erie, Ont., when the new Peace Bridge between the two cities was formally inaugurated by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by Prince George, Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, prime minister of Great Britain, and a distinguished company of public men. They were welcomed by the secretary of state of the United States, the governor of New York State, and other notables.

UNIQUE CEREMONY

Armistice Day, November 11, saw a unique ceremony in Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D.C., when a Cross of Sacrifice in honor of the citizens of the United States who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the war with Germany was unveiled by Hon. Vincent Massey and Hon. J. L. Ralston, minister of defence of Canada. It was the first occasion for over a century that British troops had been seen in the United States capital and the circumstances were marked by President Coolidge paying the Canadian soldiers the compliment of reviewing them at the White House.

Premier King paid a visit to Washington on November 25 and the Governor-General and Viscountess Willingdon paid an official visit there on December 6, being received with all the honors worthy of the occasion of the first visit of a governor-general of Canada to Washington.

Towards the end of the year the United States government paid compensation for the seizure of the schooner "Lord Nelson" on Lake Ontario two weeks before the declaration of war in 1812, thus giving further proof of good will towards Canada and terminating a claim which had been pressed for over a century.

DISASTERS OF 1927

Canada was as a whole free from great disasters during the past year. She had none of the great cataclysms of the nature which visited other countries and although there were periods of freakish weather the loss was more material than human, the sacrifice of life being small indeed when compared with, for instance, our neighbor to the south.

The most terrible happening of the year took place when the Laurier moving picture theatre at Montreal took fire on Sunday, January 9. It was crowded to the doors, mostly with children, and 78 of them were killed in the panic which ensued. There was, of course, a great storm of public indignation that such a catastrophe was possible and months later the proprietor and two of his employes received prison sentences, which did not, however, bring back the children sacrificed to human greed and criminal violation of civic bylaws. More than 30 children lost their lives when fire visited the Hospice St. Charles, Quebec City, on December 4. One adult met death. Twenty other children were burned to death in a fire in an orphanage at Lac La Blonge, Sask., on September 19. In that case no one can be blamed; the fire was sudden in the dead of the night; and the victims were trapped despite heroic work by the sisters in charge.

There were a number of other fire fatalities during the year. Four were burned to death at Ottawa on January 11; four children at Toronto on January 16; four other children at Thetford Mines, Quebec, on February 27; eight were burned, some fatally, in an apartment house fire at Vancouver on July 10; four other children were cremated at Whitney, Ontario, on July 11; five were killed in a fire caused by a mysterious explosion at Montreal on August 15; four were lost in a fire near Pasqua, Sask., on September 24; four others near Darmoody, Sask., on September 30; and three others at Huntoon, Sask., on the same day. A mysterious gasoline explosion at Toronto on October 2 killed three and injured six others.

Storms and floods caused must loss to crops and property in many sections of the country, but the loss of life was small. In the eastern townships of Quebec floods were experienced in November, akin to the New England floods, and several lives were snuffed out in railway accidents caused by washouts and wrecked bridges.

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