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**THE DAILY NEWS**

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Friday, Jan. 27, 1928

**VICTORY FOR MACLEAN**

The announcement made in the speech from the throne that the railway lands including the Peace River Block may be returned to British Columbia is a decided victory for Premier MacLean who has been pressing the government hard in regard to the right of the province to receive the lands and the need there is for them. It is a good beginning and shows the advantage of having at Ottawa and Victoria governments that are sympathetic to each other.

In mentioning this it must also be recorded that the late Premier Oliver began the agitation and dug up the evidence which showed the moral rights of the province to the lands and that at a time when many people sneered at his action.

It is to be expected now that parliament will be asked to approve the transfer.

**RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT**

All eyes are turned to the Peace River and the northern section of the Province of British Columbia. Those who read the advertisements will notice that this paper is advertising an application for a charter to build a railway from Lethbridge by way of Edmonton and the Peace River to join the Canadian National and also with a branch line to Stewart. Other railway proposals are being made at Ottawa and then there is General Sutton, the Canadian National and the C.P.R., all of whom are interested in the country. From some of these there is sure to be some result and Prince Rupert will stand to benefit.

We suggest to the people of Prince Rupert that we are on the eve of great development. Before long we are likely to see such a movement here as has surpassed anything since the days before the war. Just now it may be a little quiet but all eyes are turned in this direction and we shall surely feel the impetus pretty soon.

**PRESIDENT BEATTY SEES IMPROVEMENT**

President Beatty of the C.P.R., who is in a much better position than any of the rest of us to forecast what is coming is very buoyant in his attitude toward Canadian affairs generally. He sees a lot of railway building within the next few years and that always makes for prosperity. Much of that building is sure to take place in the development of the Peace River country. Possibly there may be two lines into the country for it is very large. At any rate we are justified in feeling that things will not remain long as they are today.

**CANADA HAS BEST RAILWAYS**

The item published yesterday indicating that Canada has the best railways in the world will be encouraging to people here. We have known that our roads were good but have not realized just how good. Only those who have travelled a great deal can properly compare them. It is one more feather in Canada's cap.

**EXPECTING ELECTION SOON**

Doubtless we shall have a provincial election soon. We have to have these unpleasant things sometimes. It is one of the evils of a democracy. However, we do not need to let that bother us. We can carry on as usual and think more about what we are going to do to forward the interests of Prince Rupert than how we are going to win an election. When the present provincial Legislature rises it will be time to sum up the situation and trim our course accordingly. Once we start an election campaign all our actions will be looked at in the light of the political situation, which is bad for everyone. Let us forget, as far as possible the approach of the inevitable contest.

**BRITISH POLITICAL SITUATION**

Every now and then there is an election in Great Britain and it is noticed that Labor is getting a good share of the support. However, it must not be thought from the results that the country is being turned over to men of the uneducated red type which is the opinion some have of a Labor politician. Army officers have been elected recently as representatives of Labor. Yesterday Major Dudley A. Mann was the Labor candidate who gave the Conservative a close run in Faversham. The joint vote of Labor and Liberal there would have won the election easily.

An attempt is being made by Liberal and Labor leaders in that country to get together and if it succeeds it is possible the outcome may be a victory for the Liberal-Labor group. At any rate it will be a hot contest.

**VARIOUS KINDS OF GOVERNMENT**

Correspondent Tells How it is Done at Ottawa Just at Present

**DELEGATIONS GALORE**

Everyone Wants Something Even to Player of the Jubilee Carillon

(By R. J. Deachman)

These are the dog days at Ottawa—not climatically speaking, but from a political viewpoint. Not much drifts to the surface, but there must be a tremendous amount of political thinking. Many people are under the impression that democratic government is government by parliament. No doubt parliament has some influence, but it is impossible for the cynic to dodge the observation that we have several kinds of government—and the men at the head never lack advice. During the past week, there was a rush for it. Delegations of all kinds and messages galore swept down upon the government. The judges want their salaries increased—some of them need it, too. Every town on the St. Lawrence wants to be the terminal when the Welland Canal is finished. It is lucky that Port Nelson had no municipal existence or the terminal of the Hudson Bay Railway could never have been changed to Churchill. Manufacturers want more tariff—creamery men ask for a tariff on butter, but not on cream separators or pumps—and Mr. Bird of Manitoba wants the tariff board abolished. So take it altogether, the government has a busy life.

The members of parliament deserve sympathy. Last year the government advertised for a man to play the new Carillon. There are very few Carillon players in America. One day a western member told me he had a letter from a man in his constituency asking for the job. "He is the one-armed janitor and bellringer in our local church," said the M.P., and he walked away sorrowing.

**VENIOT ON JOB**

A striking statement was made last week by Hon. P. J. Veniot. He stated that he expected, if he remained on the job of Postmaster General, to see mails moved from Montreal to Vancouver in one day. The suggestion brings up a noteworthy fact and yet, one generally overlooked. The post office in Canada, now and in the past, has been well administered. Handling mail over a tremendously widely scattered territory is done with a maximum of efficiency. Complaints are rare. When they are made they are looked after with a sharpness that is a splendid tribute to the men on the job. Only a short time ago there was a cut of 1-3 in the postage rate. But the post office department seems to have bridged over the resulting loss. Postage on a letter cost you two cents in 1914—it's the same in 1928. Name a few other things which have not advanced in price since 1914.

**CONFERENCES VALUELESS**

Sir John Aird, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, suggested a few days ago that the minister of immigration should call a conference on the question of securing more settlers for Canada. Everyone is delighted with the friendly interest taken by the bankers in public affairs, though the value of such conferences may be doubted.

Some years ago, Lloyd George said: "There are conferences of all kinds, for peace and war, for churches and for encouragement of aviation, for this and for that; but nothing is ever done at them. They generate a friendly feeling—they fill certain people with the idea of their own importance, but aside from that they are useless." There is a measure of truth in this stricture. Busy men have little time to think of the nation's troubles—there is more chance of hopeful suggestions from a live clerk in the department—than from a man who in the midst of a thousand worries, wakes up at the invitation of a minister and exclaims "Yes, I must give this matter a few moments' thought for my country's sake!"

**"BEAU GESTE" IS MYSTERY STORY OF FRENCH ARMY**

The French Foreign Legion, the endless, gorgeous, giant sand dunes of the Sahara, a famous missing sapphire, hundreds of desert warriors sweeping on horseback to attack a lonely fort manned by 40 men, practically all in mutiny are among the romance and thrills continued in "Beau Geste" which comes to the Westholme Theatre this week end.

No greater effort was ever put into the making of a motion picture. This romantic, thrilling screen mystery story, adapted from one of the most popular novels in years, represents a larger undertaking than even, "The Ten Commandments," which was also produced by Paramount.

Ronald Colman, Alice Joyce, Noel Deery, Mary Brian, Neil Hamilton, William Powell, Norman Trevor, Victor McLaglan and Ralph Forbes are featured, but there are scores of others—nearly as prominent.

"Beau Geste" is a mystery story of the Foreign Legion on the deserts of Africa that will tighten your very skin with excitement. It tells of three young Englishmen who disappeared from home after a famous sapphire, "The Blue Water," belonging to their aunt, is stolen. All this leads to a remote fort on the Sahara and the ever feared-at-

tack of an Arab host.

In the morning the fort remains unoccupied. Every man is at his post—dead! The commanding officer with a French bayonet through his heart, and an amazing confession concerning the theft of "The Blue Water" clutched in the hand of a dead soldier, both lie on the roof!

Herbert Brenon, who directed the picture, and the 2,000 men who appear in it, lived on the sun-scorched Arizona Desert for three months making exterior scenes.

Perival Christopher Wren is the author of "Beau Geste." John Russell and Herbert Brenon prepared the adaptation and Paul Schofield the script. Julian Johnson, supervising editor, working under the direction of Associate Para-

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**THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA**

**Reports Another Notable Year:**

1. SURPLUS EARNINGS  
**\$4,501,387**

The earnings surpassed those of the previous year by \$360,000 and amount to \$50.45 per \$1,000 of assets.

2. NEW BUSINESS WRITTEN  
**\$52,250,136**

The new paid-for business exceeded that of the previous year by more than \$2,684,000.

3. ASSURANCES in FORCE  
**\$386,669,481**

Representing an increase for the year of \$32,600,000. It should be noted that the activities of this Company are confined exclusively to Canada and Newfoundland.

4. TOTAL ASSETS  
**\$89,233,343**

Assets represent the book value of the Company's securities (entirely Canadian) and would appear substantially larger if existing market values were used. The increase for the year is \$8,600,000.

5. DIVIDENDS PAID POLICYHOLDERS  
**\$3,646,105**

An increase of more than \$550,000 over the previous year.

6. SURPLUS FUNDS and SPECIAL INVESTMENT RESERVES  
**\$11,829,283**

Insuring the continuance of liberal dividend distribution.

7. EXPENSE RATIO  
**14.44%**

Again the expense ratio has been materially reduced.

8. RATE of INTEREST EARNED  
**6.46%**

New investments made during the year exceeded \$12,000,000 and, notwithstanding steadily declining interest rates, the average rate of the previous year was almost maintained.

**Strictly Canadian—Strictly Mutual**

Operating exclusively in Canada and Newfoundland

Established 1869

	Assets	Assurances in Force	Payments to Policyholders	Surplus Earnings
1907	\$11,656,410	\$51,091,848	\$680,220.30	\$381,146
1917	32,165,431	123,511,314	2,513,991.23	1,007,730
1927	89,233,343	386,669,481	8,279,514.19	4,501,387

The Annual Meeting of the policyholders will be held on Thursday, February 2nd, at the Head Office, Waterloo, Ont.

**E. C. GIBBONS, District Manager**  
Prince Rupert, B.C.

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