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**THE RISING GENERATION**  
 Series of Letters on Live Local Subjects by Lads and Lassies of High School

**PLEA FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE MAIL DELIVERY**  
 By H. Stamp-Vincent

"The ploughman homeward plods his weary way." He is weary, but not nearly so weary as the poor Prince Rupert pedestrian, who, torn by conflicting emotions, is acting in a manner peculiar to himself. The truth is, he is going for the mail. His step is eager and vigorous as he battles with the elements until he turns the corner and comes, face to face with the Post Office. Then his manly spirit fails him and sundry visions of a letter from Alice and the next instalment of the Detective Story fade before the overwhelming pile of long, glass-faced envelopes, of sinister thinness. What anguish would be avoided if he had a post-man who could be trained to lose those "bills" comfortably. A great deal of time which could be utilized more profitably is taken up in going for the mail. I am sure that business men will agree that they can often ill afford the half-hour, or more, which is wasted in this way. It is difficult for people living a long way out too. There is only one post-office in Prince Rupert and as it is at the other side of the city from where I live I feel the full force of this argument. Time taken up in sorting mail into the various boxes is wasted. It is wasted doubly when a stack of letters and bundles is continually being sorted and resorted for applicants at the wicket. Whereas, if there were post-men such a waste would be completely overcome for mail would then be only sorted into the post-men's bags, a far less complicated process than into little, individual, numbered boxes. The advantages to the public from such an addition would be numerous. No more long tramps in the pouring rain or suffocating windstorms! No more waiting in long, bedraggled lines for endless spaces of time! No more valuable time snatched from business hours! The mail would be delivered promptly at home and office. Also, there would be a new fund of employment for Prince Rupert is widespread and several men would be necessary to cover it even every other day. As no particular skill or training is needed unskilled men thrown out of employment can find work in this way. And have you ever noticed the belated appearance of the mail clerks in mid-afternoon? Their inky noses, wilted collars, and lusterless, sunken eyes, with dark rings beneath them? This unhappy, outward appearance is brought on by an inward, mental struggle against insanity. Who would not go insane if they constantly heard and did but one thing; listened to that monotonous phrase—"S thereyferme?"—and sorted interesting looking letters and parcels for someone else? It would be an act of unparalleled benevolence to relieve them of such a task. Think of the trade the stores would do in postmen's shoes and outfits! I am not wholly disinterested when I make this "Plea for Postmen." I too have a very valid reason for wishing to hear the postman's knock. For, one: I am not a rate-payer; and two: I am one of the hard worked body of beings called the rising generation, which body is invariably called upon to lend their exclusive services in obtaining the mail. So, three cheers for all postmen, good, bad and indifferent, as long as they deliver the mail and lose the bills! City accounts for the two weeks ending October 26 totalling \$41,367 were passed for payment by the council last night. The city council last night gave permission to the Canadian Legion to hold its annual Poppy Day tagging on November 10.

**CHARGES ARE LEVIED AGAINST CITY ENGINEER BY ALDERMEN AT COUNCIL**  
 (Continued from Page One)

had been excessive use of cement and an unnecessary expenditure of \$1868 on 2300 feet of sidewalks. "You will see," stated one part of the alderman's report "that no two pieces of work used the same standard mixture nor did the prices in any two pieces of work correspond." In connection with the amount of steel used on three pieces of concrete sidewalk work, Ald. Prudhomme asserted that the steel was not put in in such a manner as to be of any material benefit to the work. The time spent in putting in the forms was excessive and much greater strength was given than was required. **Buildings Benefit** Ald. Prudhomme also charged that, in connection with the concrete sidewalk work, piers had been placed under certain buildings facing on the sidewalks, foundations having thus been put under buildings at a considerable expense to the city. Earth had also been carted away from under buildings at the city's expense. Also on several of these jobs considerable quantities of material were hauled there and, in some instances, as much as was used on the job was carted away after the job was completed as excess material. In one case, material was placed on Third Avenue, the main thoroughfare, twelve days before any of it was used, proving an obstruction to traffic as well as to the city's own work.

Ald. Prudhomme also alleged errors in grades of the sidewalks at different points. It would seem that the sidewalk grade had been changed or adjusted to suit the premises in several places and no two corners seemed to be on the same grade. In one case already, the grade had to be corrected by the adding of nearly five inches more cement on the sidewalk that had just been completed. Either the engineer's grade or the original grade must be at fault.

Another charge was that reports from the engineer's office giving statements of expenditure were very unreliable. One itemized statement from the engineering department showed the expenditure on Sixth Street, east side, as \$1,244.01. Progress sheet of April 30 showed \$1,403.85; sundry item sheet attached to said progress sheet, \$1,443.85 progress sheet, June 30, \$1,427.37; progress sheet, August 31, \$1,463.87. Five different prices for the same piece of work thus showed considerable variation.

"I also do not think," continued Ald. Prudhomme's report "that the engineer's son should be employed in his office keeping the accounts for the city. I do not think it is good business and is not safeguarding the city's interests as I think it is our duty to do. I would ask the city council to instruct the auditors to audit the engineer's accounts at once as I have been told the engineer's accounts have not been audited as other city accounts are being audited."

**Work Not Efficient** "There are many other matters that have come to my notice that made me think the city's work is not being efficiently carried out and I would be glad, if any further details are necessary, to furnish you with particulars of these matters that have come to my attention." In bringing up the matter, Ald. Prudhomme explained that his report was the upstart of a private council meeting two weeks ago when he was practically shut off and told to bring in his information at the next meeting of the council. He felt that the matter was one of particular interest which the city should consider.

read his report, Ald. Dibb remarked that serious charges had been made. He felt that the engineer should be furnished with a copy of the report in order that he might have the opportunity of replying.

**Serious Matter**


Mayor McMordie agreed that it was a serious matter—one that the city council could not deal with intelligently just now. He suggested that copies of the report be furnished to each of the aldermen as well as to the engineer. Possibly, a commission should be appointed to investigate the charges to which the city engineer should be given the opportunity to answer.

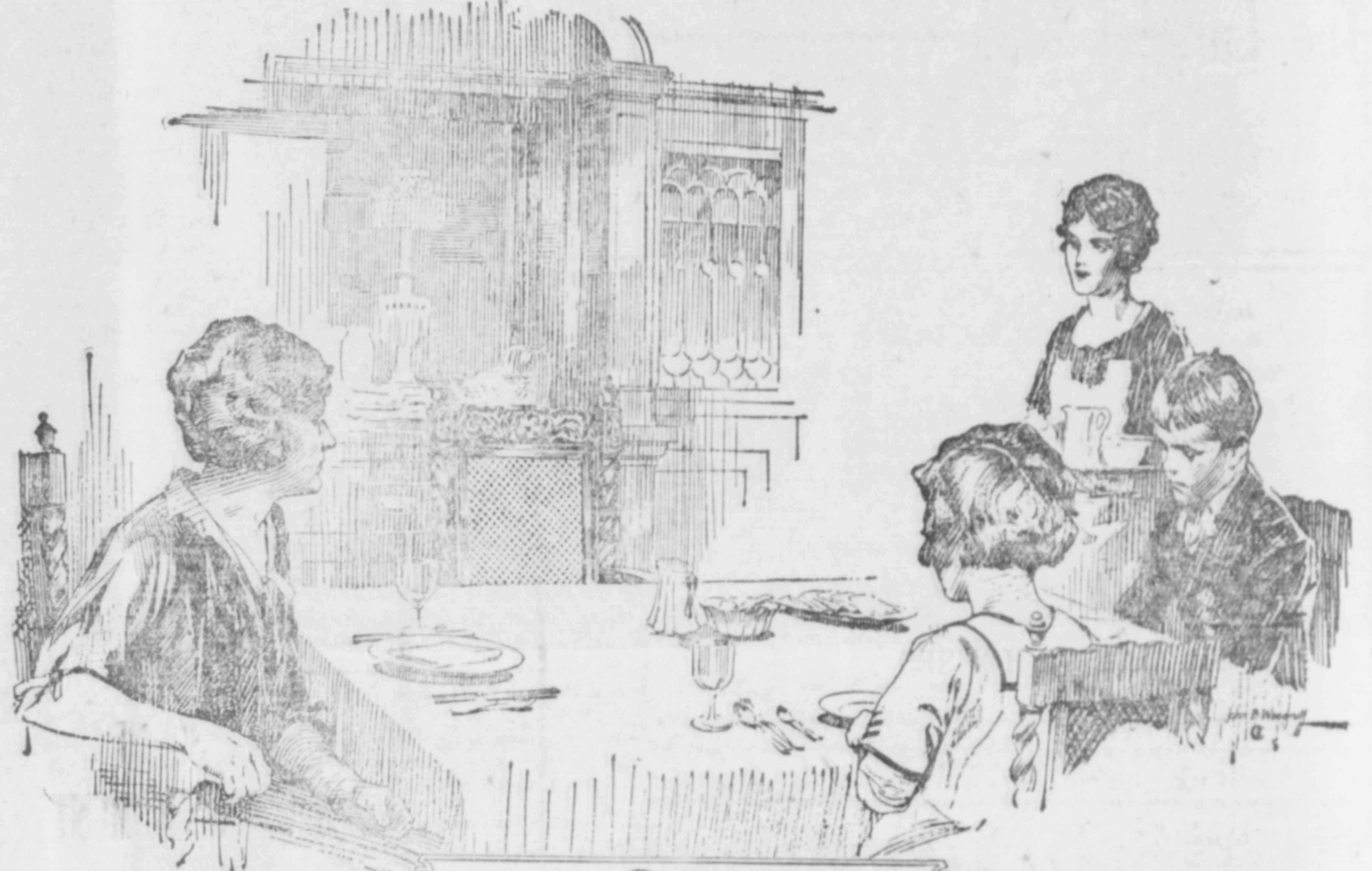
It was moved by Ald. Tinker, seconded by Ald. Linzey, that the matter be laid over for two weeks in order that the aldermen and engineer might be given the opportunity to study the report. Ald. Prudhomme stated that this would be acceptable to him. If a commission were to be appointed, he suggested the name of Judge Young.

The naming of the commission, the mayor felt, might be allowed to rest until the meeting when the report was dealt with.

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*The*  
**Vacant Chair**

**WHAT OF TO-MORROW?**  
 To-day you are alive - - well - - happy.

But suppose a summons sounds in the darkness and to-morrow your chair stands vacant. What, then, of your wife? Your children - - what of them?

When your presence is no longer there to provide for them - - to help them over the rough places of life - - even then your care need not

cease. Even then your forethought may guard them against want and adversity.

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