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CURIOUS LIBEL IN REGARD TO PRINCE RUPERT

Vancouver Province London Correspondent Comes to Rescue of City in Setting Weekly Right

The following under a two-column headline appeared in the Vancouver Province of recent date:

The extraordinary belief that Canada is a land of icy desolation, where the scattered inhabitants are clad in skins, live in igloos, and trap a rabbit for breakfast every morning, still clings in the minds of some, and the idea dies hard. A deplorable canard, one very similar to the above, has recently been given publicity by the British journal Pearson's Weekly, from the pen of Miss Barbara Austen, an opera singer, and she selects our own fair Prince Rupert to besmirch.

But it remained for the correspondent of the Southam Press in London, Lukin Johnson, formerly a member of The Daily Province staff, and resident in British Columbia for two decades, to take up the cudgels for Prince Rupert. He sent the following letter to the editor of Pearson's Weekly, which will explain the whole matter.

Blocked by Ice Floes

Dear Sir,—On page 862 of your issue of January 19th, you published an article by one Barbara Austen, purporting to be a record of some of her experiences as an opera singer.

In the course of the article she writes that "During my ten years in the States.....the most embarrassing experience was on my first visit to Winnipeg." A traveller of souch distinction ought surely to be aware that Winnipeg is the capital of Manitoba, Canada, and is not in "the States."

She proceeds to give an account of her "most exciting experience" ....when off the port of Prince Rupert, B.C.....

"Due at Prince Rupert, in British Columbia, our company embarked on a boat about the size of a Channel steamer, which should have accomplished the twenty-five-mile journey in about an hour. But wind and tide had swept an immense barrier of ice floes up the mouth of the river, blocking it almost completely.

"Through the ice field we litterally fought our way during two whole days and nights.

Ridiculous

"Excepting tinned pork and beans, there was no food aboard, and it was so bitterly cold that we dared not put our noses outside the cabins.

"Finally our ship became jammed in the ice within two miles of Prince Rupert, and to get out and walk seemed the only solution. So at half-past seven in the morning the entire company climbed down the ship's sides on rope ladders and trekked across the solid ice. In order to 'land' we had to clamber up a pier about thirty feet high, hauling up our baggage as best we could."

I have lived in British Columbia for twenty years and from an intimate knowledge of the country, feel constrained to point out to you that this story is utterly ridiculous in all its details.

Within living memory—and I have checked my own knowledge from official sources—there has never been any such an occurrence as the blocking of Prince Rupert harbor by ice floes. The harbor is open the year round. Over the last ten years the mean temperature for January— the coldest month—has been 32 degrees Fehrenheit. The harbor is always entirely free from ice, nor has the mouth of the Skeena River ever been blocked so far as there are any records, or so far as memory of living persons serves.

Finest Harbor

There is no town or settlement where an opera company could conceivably be playing anywhere within twenty-five miles of Prince Rupert—or within 250 miles for that matter. As for the alleged lack of food on what was apparently a passenger vessel and the alleged walk over two miles of "solid ice," it may be said that the steamship services on the B. C. coast are, and have been for many years, probably the finest and most luxurious in the world; the walk over the ice one can only regard as a figment of somebody's imagination.

It seems unfortunate that such utterly untrue trash as this should be given publicity, thereby given currency to a wildly absurd picture of one of the finest Canadian harbors on the North Pacific.

LUKIN JOHNSTON.

District News

VANDERHOOF

On account of the intensely cold weather, the Vanderhoof Superior School has been closed for the past few days. The lowest thermometer reading during the recent cold snap here has been 56 degrees below zero.

The Ladies' Aid to the local United Church met this afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. B. Smith.

George Ogston has been elected chairman of the local board of village commissioners and R. G. Matthews is vice-chairman.

Rev. Leonard J. Hales of Smithers visited the district during the past week and conducted Anglican Church services here on Sunday.

The Omineca Branch of the Canadian Legion here has elected officers as follows: president, R. M. Taylor; vice-president, George Ogston; secretary-treasurer, Stephen Holmes; executive, J. H. F. Lacey, W. Pinniger, Roderick MacDonald and Andrew J. F. Rae. David Donaldson is chaplain.

J. W. H. Day has received a beer license for the Vanderhoof Hotel.

Owen Burdett left last week for Jasper to meet a niece of Mrs. Burdett's who is coming here from England.

A meeting of the Women's Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion was held on Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Stephen Holmes.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark and family are now fully recovered after having been under quarantine for the past two months.

Mr. and Mrs. Royce left last week for Prince George with their young son who is to undergo an operation.

Dr. Alexander
PHONE 575
BESNER BLOCK
DENTIST

DAILY NEWS' SHOPPING SERVICE
for Out-of Town Subscribers

To serve its women readers, and particularly those who live at a distance from a retail centre, The Daily News has instituted a Shopping Service. The Daily News is read by hundreds of women living far from any urban facilities for shopping and it is for these that this shopping service is primarily intended. Of course, The Daily News Shopper will attend to the man also, although he can buy a pair of braces anywhere. But not everywhere can a woman get a bit of lace matched—or a piece of embroidery thread—or the thousand and one things that make up the difference between a woman's wants and a man's.

The Prince Rupert Merchants Carry between them Stocks running up to $2,000,000

and while it is not possible to purchase everything in this world in Prince Rupert, most things are available by return mail.

None of the Prince Rupert merchants can possibly advertise everything they carry in stock, but if the thing wanted is to be got in this city, our out-of-town readers may be sure that The Daily News Shopper will get it when asked for.

If any of our women readers cannot get what they want in their nearest store, all there is to do is to write to The Daily News Shopper, stating what is required with whatever details there may be, enclosing the cost, and if it is in Prince Rupert, The Daily News Shopper makes your purchase.

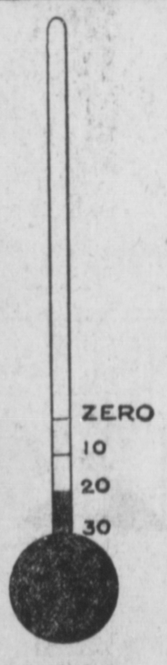
This Service Free

to our women readers and is the outcome of many individual requests made to our staff on their travels through the district in seasons past. This service has been appreciated in these individual cases and is now extended to all with the hope of the same appreciation.

So Do Not Hesitate

Do not think you are imposing upon The Daily News. Our shopper is awaiting your requests.

THE DAILY NEWS
PRINCE RUPERT B. C.



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