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Another Water Crisis

WATER CRISES are becoming fairly regular in Prince Rupert. Every few months something seems to happen to the aged and decrepit system. Now the reservoir has gone dry again. Late yesterday nobody seemed to know where the water was going although it seemed obvious that there was an abnormal loss somewhere. It was a nervous situation on a bleak cold day with a north wind blowing, people stoking up and the memory close in mind of a fire only the day before which had threatened the downtown business section with possible destruction.

Prince Rupert has been running a lot of risks these last few years with its water system—to say nothing of inconvenience and a degree of discomfort.

One of these days, if we don't do something about it soon, we are going to be caught with a water failure and a fire at the same time and it might be disastrous.

The city council is fully conscious of the situation and, indeed, has during the past year taken some measures to at least partially rectify it. But it is a big job and there is a lot still to be done.

As Ald. Casey said in his letter yesterday and as we have often pointed out in the past, a sure and adequate water system is a prime essential. Many think that it is our No. 1 need.

Certainly, if we should be wiped out by fire because we did not have an adequate water supply and fire protection, nothing else would matter very much.

Power Rates

ELECTRIC POWER in Prince Rupert will be much in the public eye again now that the Northern British Columbia Power Company is asking for permission to increase its rates.

There may not be a great deal of discontent over the proposal of a change in the basic rates which, in view of increased costs, would not appear to be too drastic. Although all these things are making it harder all the time for us to live within our family incomes, we are getting inured to increased prices. Those of us in business can look at it dispassionately, knowing how costs have gone up all along the line—wages, goods and services.

The power company has a strong point in comparing its rates with those charged by the publicly-owned British Columbia Power Commission.

The Daily News can by no means be charged with carrying any brief for the power company. We have given it plenty of criticism in the past when it has fallen down on the job but it is entitled to fair consideration in its application for rate revision.

It is not in the matter of rates where a quarrel with N. B. C. Power might develop. It is in the matter of service and, to be fair about it, the company does seem to have been trying to do something about that although there may be some difference of opinion as to whether that something has been adequate.

Anyway, here's hoping the lights don't go out again tomorrow.

Scripture Passage for Today

"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."—1 Cor. 15:21.

Keep up Fight For Air Field

Word that the Central British Columbia Airways, which is planning instituting of a commercial air service through the central interior from Prince George to Terrace, cannot extend service here because there is no airport, actuated the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce Monday in deciding to resume the campaign for a commercial airfield at Tugwell Island.

T. Norton Youngs, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce air transport committee, said that the Tugwell Island air strip campaign was being continued. There had been correspondence with E. T. Applewhaite, M.P.

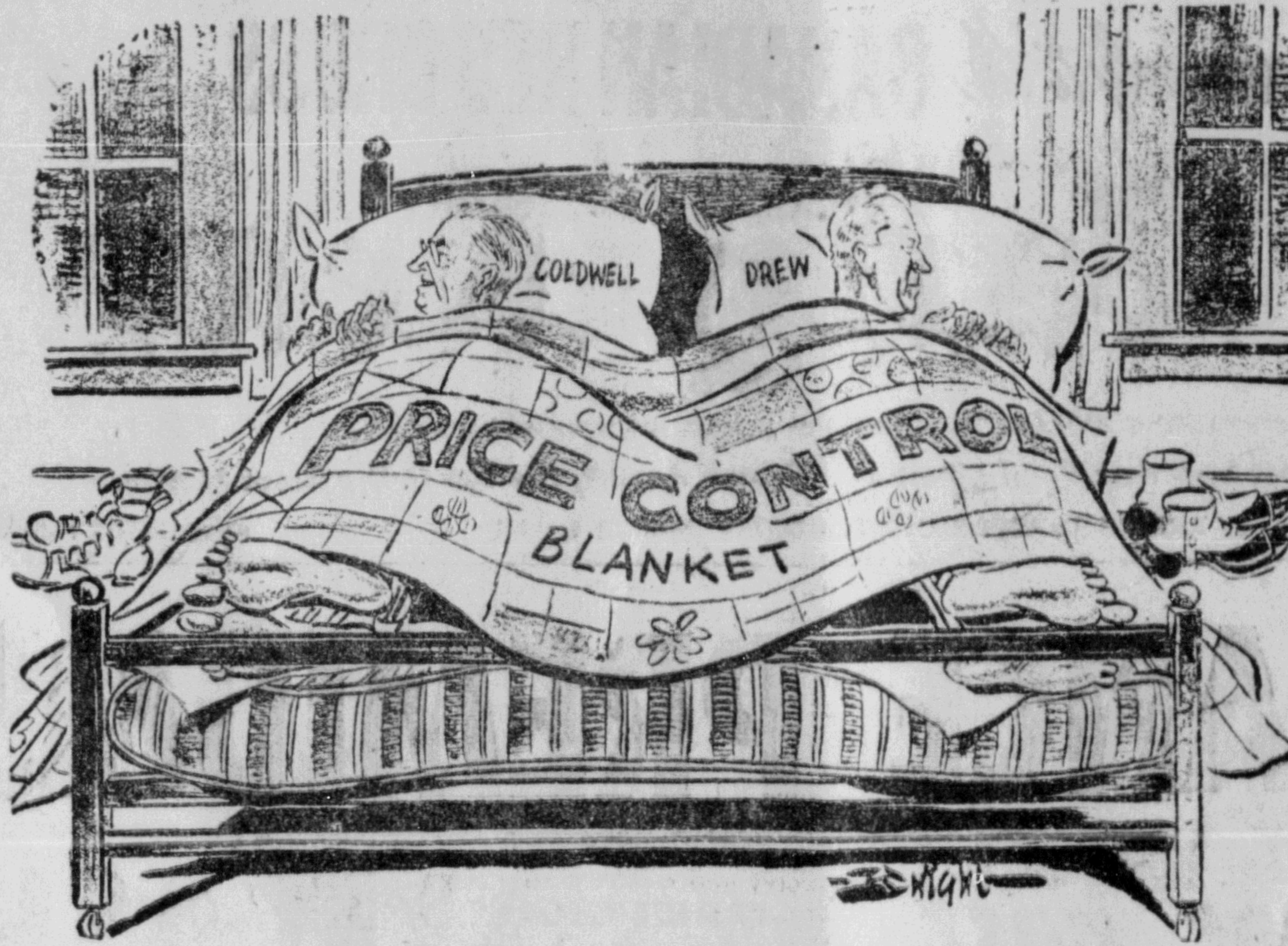
If you want to sell it, advertise it. News classifieds.

Opening of Pulp Mill to be Aired

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will be asked by the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce to send a representative here on the occasion of the forthcoming formal opening of the Columbia Cellulose plant at Watson Island to put the affair on the national network. The Chamber, at the suggestion of W. F. Stone, decided to send the invitation. The big opening is expected to take place in May or June.

Banquet Liquor Selling Banned

TORONTO—Beginning April 1 the Ontario Liquor Board will not issue liquor banquet permits to organizations planning to make a charge for drinks.



Alcan is Going Ahead

OTTAWA (CP)—Trade Minister Howe said the government still opposed to a general price freeze, is considering a commodity margin-of-profit control as one of several weapons to fight price inflation.

"We'll have something to say on that before many weeks go by," Mr. Howe said in an interview with parliamentary press.

Commodity margin-of-profit control was used in the second world war along with price ceilings. By this means, government controlled price spreads between manufacturer and distributor and between distributor and consumer.

Soon to be faced, too, said Mr. Howe, was the probability of civilian production restrictions by which the same quantity of goods would be produced with less materials. For example, chrome might be stripped from

passenger cars and steel from certain parts of washing machines.

Mr. Howe said the Aluminum Company of Canada is going ahead with their big aluminum project in British Columbia. However, up to the moment, no contract was signed to supply United States with Canadian aluminum.

He said shortage of steel was proving to be the biggest defence production headache. "This may lead to reduction in civilian passenger-car output."

The government could not create a system of price controls without first suspending the Combines Investigation Act. Canadians could best help the defence effort and overcome inflation by refusing to buy anything unless it was absolutely essential.

School Board Wants Service

No consideration will be given by the school board to any school activity under jurisdiction of the board unless reasonable notice has been given of such activity or contemplated activity.

That was the motion last night adopted by School District 52 trustees with reference to the Booth Memorial High School basketball team leaving for Petersburg, Alaska.

Trustee W. J. Scott, who made the motion, said a newspaper item which at the last minute indicated the team would leave for Alaska, subject to the approval of the school board, had "put the board on the spot."

"If the board's permission had to be asked they should have done so in good time," said Mr. Scott. "First official information of the team's intention to go to Alaska came to us from that (newspaper) item."

Dr. R. G. Large, chairman of the board, felt trustees could be a little more lenient because preparations by travelling sports teams sometimes were made on very short notice, especially when travelling by sea.

Mrs. E. W. Becker dissented in the vote.

Would Clean up Debris in City

Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, having obtained no results from representations along the same lines made several months ago, decided Monday to again request the city to take steps towards cleaning up the debris of the fire which destroyed the Central Hotel on First Avenue at Seventh Street three years ago.

In bringing the matter up again, A. B. Brown referred to the fact that an apartment block might soon be operating in the former United States Army administration building just across the street from the hotel ruins.

"There are other spots in the city about as bad," observed Dr. L. M. Greene.

Untidy and littered streets and an "epidemic of dogs" in downtown streets will also be drawn to the attention of the city.

BURNHAM, ENGLAND (CP)—While a housewife was playing the piano for her husband, thieves broke into an upstairs bedroom in this Buckinghamshire town and stole jewelry valued at \$18,000.



CHAMPLAIN PORTRAIT—This artist's conception of Samuel de Champlain, founder of Quebec and first governor of New France, is still thought popularly to represent the famed 17th-century explorer. It was drawn by Ducrest in France 100 years ago and somehow passed as the real picture of Champlain. It appears in several historical and school books. Although historians have proved there is no known authentic portrait of Champlain, many paintings and busts have been derived from it. (CP PHOTO)

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Reflects and Reminisces

A BIT CANDID

The medical profession, says the Brandon Sun, announces again that whisky is no cure for the common cold but then neither is the medical profession.

AS A MATTER OF COURSE

A huge industry is about to open near Prince Rupert and it is suggested the highway between this city and Terrace be kept open in winter to facilitate the movement of logs to the big cellulose plant at Watson Island.

Why should there be the slightest question or doubt about not having the road free of snow? When, after more than one generation of wishful waiting, a permanent payroll affecting the whole district appears, a snowless road along the Skeena should be thought of as a matter of course. It's little enough to encourage the spending of capital on a major sale and the giving of jobs.

DEFENCE AND JOBS

Canada has \$3,500,000, classified as savings, as a consequence of readjustments in the letter carrying service. Canada has also 1,200 surplus mail men. It is dawnning on us that Canada will be defended in a way that sometimes comes pretty close home.

Because of weather conditions, people in Vancouver are being asked if they would still prefer living on the coast to anywhere else in Canada and all say they would. No one would be astonished if Prince Rupert were to say the same.

OLD DOC PALMA

Calling it "I Am Tired of Love and Security," Dr. Joseph Palma of Honolulu has dashed off a new and challenging style of composition. For one thing, he's going to get himself in bad with psychiatrists—the fellows who look and sound like wisdom at so much per. Dr. Palma says right out loud there's too much time devoted to kids, or as he says, "brats." He cheerfully damns the tremendous emphasis attached to "love and security," right up to the point that the little thug who sets fire to the school house or chops up a playmate has been provided with an alibi of lack of security in his formative days.

Some of the evening-wear stockings, comments Kitchener Record, are sheer today and gone tomorrow.

ACROSS THE STRAITS

Queen Charlotte Islanders want settlers and doubtless they knew about Sons of Freedom relocation possibilities as early as anywhere else. Prince Rupert is familiar with many of those living there and may feel they know how the pioneers think concerning this proposed movement north. Whatever they do or say they know their own mind and can be depended on to be heard from.

Fire Dept. is Commended

Good work of the city fire department in dealing with Monday morning's downtown fire won a vote of appreciation from Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce at its meeting that night.

It was a "magnificent job" said Secretary P. H. Linzey who suggested that a letter should be sent to city council commending the department. The Chamber quickly acted on the suggestion.

It was felt, however, that there might have been quicker action on the part of the city public works department in bringing up road blocks. Passing traffic had hampered the fire department in its work. W. F. Stone said.

Enrolment Mounting

One hundred more children are attending city schools this year compared with the same time in 1950. February enrolment records show an increase from 1255 students last year to present attendance of 1359.

Enrolment compared with February 1950:

	1950	1951
Booth	451	488
Conrad	252	272
King Edward	305	318
Borden	247	281
February enrolment at Digby school was 19; Port Edward, 85, and Port Simpson, seven.		

In Healthy Condition

EDMONTON (CP)—Premier E. C. Manning Monday brought down a record 1951-52 Alberta budget with direct financial aid to municipalities figuring largely in estimated expenditure of \$93,969,610. The Premier estimated the total revenue at \$94,223,090, another record. This provides for a surplus of \$253,480.

The oil-rich province, to spend more than \$19,000,000 over the estimated expenditures of last

year, will receive a reduction in taxation on licence plates and in excess of \$3,000,000. Mr. Manning said the government is eliminating a cent-a-gallon tax on motor fuels and industrial purposes, sending a direct saving of \$1,168,000 annually. Passenger car taxes now ranging from \$10 to \$20 for all cars since 1941, and less reduced on cars operating that date. This represents saving to motorists of \$700,000 this year.

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