

Tuesday, November 27, 1951

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association.
G. A. HUNTER, Managing Editor; H. G. PERRY, Managing Director
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
By carrier, per week, 20c; per month, 75c; per year, \$8.00; by mail, per month, 75c; per year, \$8.00.
Published every afternoon except Sunday by
Prince Rupert Daily News Ltd., 3rd Avenue, Prince Rupert.

Civic Interest Needed

CIVIC nomination day is less than ten days distant and two weeks from this Thursday the election will take place.

But there is a deplorable lack of interest.

Two mayoralty candidates are definitely in the field and at least two more names are being prominently mentioned.

Nobody seems to be taking much interest in the aldermanic contest and that is too bad because one alderman is just about as important as the mayor in directing the serious business of the city.

The mayor might be called the front man (or woman) of the city and, in view of that, it is, of course, important that we have a good, capable, personable mayor with executive ability and personality.

But the mayor has to answer to his council. That is why it is important there should be good timber individually in the council which really decides the policy of the city and to considerable extent directs it.

It is all very well to criticize the city council, talking about what it does or does not do. Some of those who are the loudest in their criticism are, we have noted, those who are the most diffident about getting in there and taking a hand in the work.

So it is important that we should have good material not only on the city council but on the very important school board as well as the parks board which also is in a position to do very important work for the city.

It is to be hoped that good men will enlist themselves in the conduct of city affairs by offering their candidature.

Then when election day comes it is also desirable that there should be a big turn-out of citizens to express their preferences.

However, if we do not have some advance enthusiasm as can only be occasioned by good, healthy discussion among the candidates, there is little chance of enthusiasm at the polls.

It is indeed too bad that, with the rising importance of this city and the many civic problems that beset it, there is not a more active interest in the highly important business of civic government.

We may think our own personal and business affairs demand all our time and attention but we should also remember that, as goes the business of the community, so goes our own business.

It is to be hoped the next few days will see a lively awakening of interest in civic affairs.

Why Peace Delay?

IT is a little difficult to understand, if the cease-fire line can be settled and tacitly agreed upon as the line of demarcation after the armistice in Korea, why it should be necessary for the hostilities to go on for another 30 days, even if they are on a reduced basis.

It seems like going on with the killing and wounding after the most important part of the argument has been settled. If that is one of the formalities of modern warfare, it seems ridiculous.

Of course the truce and the armistice may not mean an end to the great ideological warfare of which Korea is only a small part. But the cold war will never be settled as long as the hot war goes on.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Nix on Price Fix?

MANUFACTURERS are descending on Ottawa like angry bees these days.

For our parliament is toying with the idea of passing a law saying, in effect: "Nix on price fix."

For once, I am on the side of SOME of the manufacturers—not all. For it seems to me you just can't say no manufacturer may fix the price at which the retailer is to sell his product. There are two sides to this story.

IT IS 30 years since I began to write in Canadian newspapers. In that whole time all the different papers for which I have written have been subject to the keenest competition. Yet the selling price of the papers was always printed on page one and I fancy any newsie who tried to sell those papers for less than the going rate would have had a hard time getting a future supply.

Before that I sold vacuum cleaners, from factory to dealers. We charged the retailer about \$50 for the machine no sold to the public at \$75. We would not permit any retailer to sell for less than the going rate—for obviously that would have worked havoc amongst all the other dealers. Yet we faced fierce, steady competition every day of the year.

IT SEEMS to me that there is an important difference between the fixing of a fair selling price by the manufacturer, acting entirely in the interest of his own product, his own retailers and his own customers, and the fixing of prices, by several manufacturers, acting in collusion jointly to hold up the public.

Take the now famous case of Macey's department store and the Mixmaster company. When the big New York stores were trying to unload their surplus stocks last summer, they staged enormous "bargain sales."

To attract the customers they used the "loss leader" technique. For instance they sold Mixmasters for about \$23 which cost them \$29 apiece when bought wholesale. Naturally vast throngs came in to grab such bargains. And in grabbing such "sucker bait" article they naturally saw other things they wanted. The profits on these latter sales more than offset the losses on the sold-below-cost Mixmasters.

WE HAVE had recent examples in Canada where manufacturers of standard necessities secretly and illegally combined to extort extra money from the public by fixing prices to the public, and ruthlessly stamping out any attempted competition. There is a vast difference between this form of conspiracy, and the fixing, by a single manufacturer, of the final retail price on his own unique product.

The test of such difference is this:
Is there effective competition?
Is the public interest protected?

In the case of a wide variety of manufactured articles the public interest is protected because—even though each manufacturer may individually fix the retail price of his own product—he does not attempt to fix the price of his numerous competitors' products—all of which compete with his in open market.

SUPPOSE an arbitrary, indiscriminate law were passed simply saying "No manufacturer may tell the retailer that he may not sell the product below such and such a price."

The early effect of that law would be that the big chain stores would quickly put out of business many—maybe most—of the smaller independent concerns. They would use the "loss leader" technique, exactly as did Macey's, and who could blame them? But only concerns with vast resources could attempt this.

The small merchant would be out of luck and out of business.

Moving, Packing, Crating, Shipping and General Cartage and Storage

Complete, Reliable and Efficient Service. Also agents for Canadian Liquid Air Co. Ltd. for Oxygen, Acetylene and all welding supplies.

LINDSAY'S CARTAGE & STORAGE LIMITED
Cor. 2nd and Park Avenues
Est. 1910 Phones 60 and 68

VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

Herb Anscomb Happy—Coalition Split and Election by September

VICTORIA.—Conservative Leader Herb Anscomb is walking in the clouds these days. He can hardly believe all the wonderful news—Winston Churchill and his Conservatives back in power in Britain; the Conservative party of Ontario swept back into office with a tremendous majority.

Anscomb's positive now that his B.C. Conservatives will sweep the province at the next general election.

Meanwhile he's doing lots of spade work, repairing his political fences, telling his followers to get out and organize and be all ready for the fight. It would appear he's doing a better job of organizing than the Liberals who are bickering and fighting among themselves.

The talk in legislative corridors now is that the Coalition will go through next session, make an attempt to get back in the good graces of the public (throw out the Milk Board, remove the ban on coloring of margarine, fix up hospital insurance). The Liberals and Conservatives will then split up and go their separate ways to the polls in a general election about September.

It must be admitted Herb Anscomb has reason for buoyancy as he looks at Britain and Ontario. Just the same, this observer would bet (if he had any money) that the Liberals, under Boss Johnson, will be able to take the government in the next provincial general election.

Really down-hearted these days are the CCF'ers. They don't admit it in public, being always hopeful that their cause will win in the end. But the practical wiping out of the CCF from Ontario has been a bad blow. The Socialist defeat in Britain, too, was a great disappointment to the CCF.

One wouldn't think political affairs in a distant country and a far-away province could have any bearing on affairs in B.C. But they do. People have a tendency to get on the bandwagon. It's odd, but it's true. British Columbia isn't going to have a dull minute from now until election day, whenever that will be.

DISCOVER CHROMITE
KARACHI.—High grade chromite has been discovered in Baluchistan, believed in sufficient quantity to warrant development on a commercial basis. Pakistan already produces 20,000 tons of chromite annually.

Winston Churchill will visit Ottawa in January but there is not the slightest occasion for him to worry over frozen water pipes, frost bites, snow shovelling or poorly heated rooms. Ottawa can be found exceedingly comfortable.

(Continued on page 6)

Were You Missed in 1951 Enumeration?

The Daily News check on the 1951 census, which is being challenged for its short count of 8,465, may prove useful as a basis in any new count which may be made to find city residents who were missed by the enumerators.

People who were missed are being asked to communicate the omission with as little delay as possible so that basis may be established for the contention that there was a serious short count. The city has enlisted the co-operation of service clubs in a new count.

DAILY NEWS CENSUS CHECK

A federal census taker did NOT call at my home and I have checked with each member of my family to make sure.

There are persons in my family.

..... (signature)

..... (address)

Come to the aid of the party with ...



This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

LETTERBOX

SEATTLE APPRECIATION

Editor, Daily News:

From the mad vortex of fevered commercialism in whose enslavement struggles this rich American metropolis of Seattle, Washington, it was heartening to read in your Daily News of November 13 the timely editorial entitled "Killing Christmas." Not many little papers in this country would so dare flaunt their principles in the face of an insatiable and ever-encroaching commercialism that would make of Christmas a pirated and a ribald mockery and of our greatly-vaunted democracy but another victim to the fever of human greed. So, thanks again for the editorial. And I hope that you will continue to print material not entirely enslaved to the loud-sung dictates of the dollar. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Further about "Killing Christ-

mas" I am enclosing an item from the Seattle Times of this day November 25. Here is an item so pertinent to the situation that it might read well as a follow-up to your earlier piece on the editorial page.

All best wishes to the Prince Rupert Daily News. A paper serving an emerging community that has behind it one of the most richly endowed regions that remains largely unravaged and undestroyed by the rapacious hand of man. If you are able to cherish and protect a clean northwest country unbridled acquisition has lain waste the great of this favored continent indeed will be a good wiser counsel to go on with find than to go on with this world there is enough for everyone—PHIL PRICHARD 1412 Summit Ave. Seattle, 22, WA



When you add it all up

WHEN you consider the men, women and money needed to operate 3,700 branches you see what is involved in looking after the greatly increased demands made by Canadians upon their chartered banks.

In ten years... with bigger staffs and higher wages, payrolls have jumped from \$40 million a year to \$102 million... taxes, federal, provincial and municipal, have risen from \$9.5 million to \$20.7 million a year

... interest paid to depositors has increased from \$22 million to \$57.8 million a year.

And these are only three of many expenses. Yes, today more than ever, it costs money to run a bank.

One of a series by your bank

Happy Christmas Darling!

And with love... from Mother and Dad... a very special present, her own bank book showing a Christmas deposit. Think about giving the "Juniors" at your house a "Commerce" account of their own. You'll see what a happy gift it is. Your teen-agers will feel so grown-up and important. You'll know what a good gift it is—a personal account encourages them to save for what they want.

Remember, money-wise boys and girls are more understanding of their parents' planning, better prepared for their own future responsibilities.

It's simple when you know

A WOMAN AND HER BANK

The Canadian Bank of Commerce "The Commerce"

Ask for your copy at your branch, or write to Mr. Terry, Head Office, The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Toronto.



GENERAL ELECTRIC

Now on Display

"NOMA" XMAS LIGHTS

Shop early and avoid disappointment

Many new novelty decoration sets

from 1.35 up

Rupert Radio & Electric

Rupert's Only Fully Modern Hotel
SAVOY HOTEL ANNEX
All Rooms With Bath Phone 37