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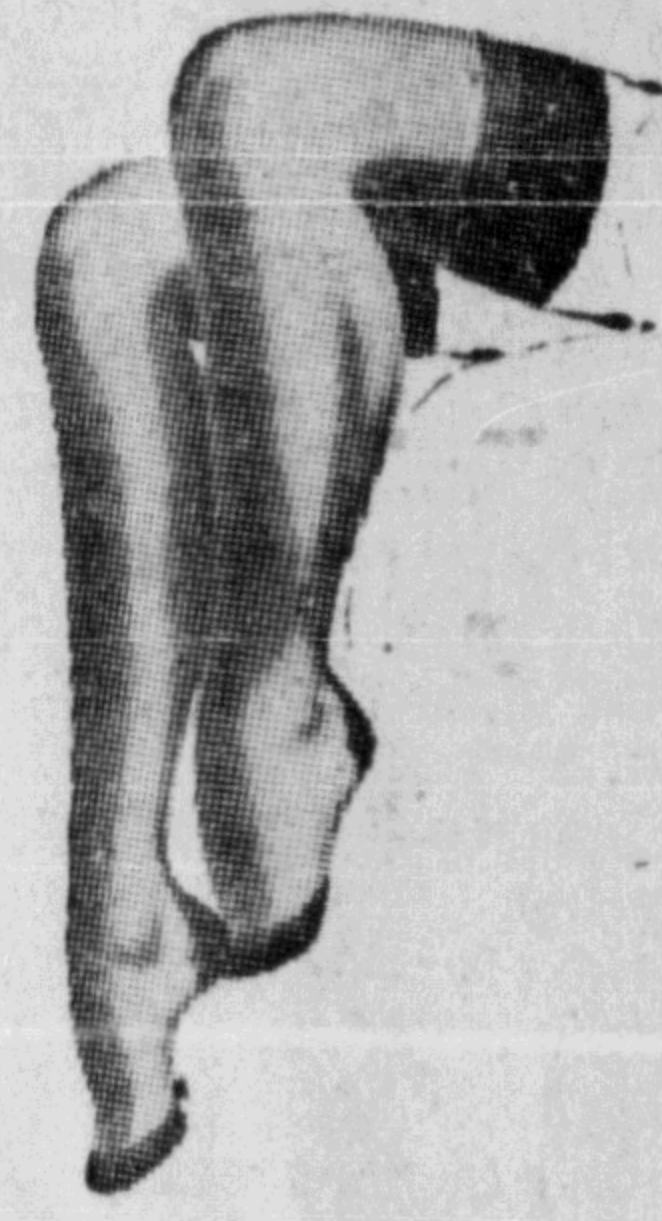
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building boom had struck Western Canada and railways needed freight and new coal discoveries should mean tonnage for new railways. Gething did his part well. He discovered, staked and proceeded to develop a mountain of coal near Hudson's Hope. He first tried the Pine Pass country but said that the coal seams there were more broken up than at Bullhead Mountain, near Hudson's Hope. His interest in the new town of Prince George was the result of his Peace River coal explorations. He visualized Prince George as a clearing house of the future for the wealth of the northland.

Mr. Gething was a contemporary of J. Augustus Heinze, most dazzling of the early Kootenay millionaires. Heinze had made his fortune in B.C. mining, had built a smelter near the site of the present Trail smelter. Heinze battled with the CPR, Wall Street and all banks. Gething often recalled the sad end of Heinze's career. The Kootenay millionaire boldly entered Wall Street on his own account. He launched a bank which failed. When his empire had collapsed, he bought himself a revolver and suicided in his office in his bankrupt New York bank.

When Whittaker Wright, the English promoter, controlled the War Eagle, Le Roi and other



"Do you give estimates?"

mining properties at Rossland, Gething was in the Kootenay country. Wright promoted companies in England and swindled English bankers and investors. When arrested and placed on trial, Wright suicided in Bow Street court room by swallowing potassium cyanide.

Gething was in Rossland in 1900 when William Lyon Mackenzie King, destined to become Prime Minister of Canada, came to the mining town to settle a strike which had paralyzed the country. Active in the strike picture at Rossland were such famous men as Eugene V. DeBbs, later Socialist candidate for President of the U.S.A.; Big Bill Haywood, who launched the Industrial Workers of the World movement and who died in Russia following the 1917 revolution; Governor Charles Macintosh of the Northwest Territories; Hon. Joseph Martin, Premier of B.C., and prominent financial and railway men from the C.P.R. and the Great Northern. Among the transient labor agitators were Moyer and Pettibone who murdered Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. Out of the riot and bloodshed emerged a new labor code for Canada. Out of the wreckage of mines and smelters developed the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company and its vast metalliferous plants at Trail.

While Neil Gething often recalled the giants of the past, he retained a youthful outlook and numbered among his friends prominent figures of today, Carl Springer, gold mine operator in Ontario and B.C., was an associate. He knew all the bush pilots, W. Grant McConnachie of CPA and Russ Baker of Central B.C. Airways were his good friends; also Capt. Wop May. He admired Premier Byron I. Johnson of British Columbia, and hailed him as a natural successor to Sir Richard McBride who launched the B.C. government railway to Peace River country. Mr. Gething recently paid tribute to Mr. Johnson as the only statesman with courage enough to add one mile to the PGE Railway after the line had reached Quesnel. It was his ambition to be present at the arrival of the first train over the PGE to reach Prince George, an event scheduled for late 1951.

Gething dreamed of a great industrial centre at Hudson's Hope and never tired of pointing out that the divide between the Arctic and Pacific watersheds was the lowest pass through the Cordilleran system. Indicating a point near Summit Lake, north of Prince George, the old man would say: "The continental divide at this point is a wheat field!"

He was a member of a family in Wales long identified with mining. He had received technical training in geology at Ann Arbor University. A brother, J. W. Gething, graduated in medicine and is now living at Battle Creek. The Hudson's Hope coal was almost equal to that of the Lackawanna Valley in Pennsylvania where Gething had worked in the mines. In 1892 there was no railway within a thousand miles and the marketing of the coal was a problem which Neil Gething sought to solve during his fifty years.

Defeat merely whetted Gething's intense desire to see the country developed and he lived to see two sons operate coal mines at the "Hope" and haul the stuff out more than a hundred miles by motor truck to Dawson Creek, railway terminus of the Northern Alberta system.

Lord Rhondda, Welsh coal magnate, who became food controller for Great Britain during the First World War, was a partner of Gething and spent some millions in an effort to open up the wealth of natural resources contiguous to Hudson's Hope. He was felled by the war and, when Lord Rhondda died, a daughter tried unsuccessfully to carry out the great plans of her father for that part of the Peace River

country. In addition to the late Senator Robert Green, Dr. Aylward Victoria was a partner. The estates of Senator Green and of Dr. Aylward retain wide interests at Hudson's Hope.

Mr. Gething's gifts to the museum of the Geological Survey at Ottawa were numerous. He discovered the three-toed tracks of dinosaurs in the sandstone bedrock in Peace River Canyon. He made casts of these and sent them to Ottawa where they continue to create great interest among students. He found skulls and ribs of mammoth creatures which roamed Canada ten million years ago. Anthropologists were able to build up some of the fascinating exhibits in the Victoria Museum Building, Ottawa, from these remains. He gave Indian relics from the region to museums at Victoria, Ottawa, and the Smithsonian Institute.

Mr. Gething once had the scientific world puzzled when he shipped to Ottawa a live creature resembling a lizard which he encountered far underground in a coal seam.

Unable to continue actively in mining these last few years, Gething was frequently a partner of geologists and prospectors on tours of exploration. Of recent years he conducted a farm

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Vancouver Scots Backing Covenant

VANCOUVER — The Scottish covenant movement—Scotland's fight for home rule—has spread to Vancouver.

A petition is now being circulated to all persons of Scottish origin.

(Already 1,700,000 signatures, urging a Parliament for Scotland, have been recorded from among the 5,000,000 residents of Scotland.)

Donald G. MacKinnon, president of the St. Andrew's Caledonian Society, said last night that the petition will be put into circulation immediately.

He added that the association is "neither endorsing nor condemning the movement. But every Scot will be given an opportunity to sign it."

at Hudson's Hope with his son Lawrence.

Mrs. Gething predeceased her husband by many years. A son Wesley died suddenly some years ago from a heart attack attributed to overwork at the Canyon Mine. Quentin Franklin "King" Gething and Lloyd Gething, operators of mines at Hudson's Hope, are sons. A daughter, Miss Vesta, is postmistress there. Mrs. Lillian Aubrey of Fort St. John is another daughter. Dr. J. W. Gething of Battle Creek, a brother, also survives.

Burial took place at Hudson's Hope Thursday, January 4.

BABY'S COLDS

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