

Independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations

Canadian Daily Newspaper Association

A. HUNTER, Managing Editor. H. G. PERRY, Managing Director

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.

Our M.L.A. Speaks Out

HIS CONSTITUENTS will heartily applaud Prince Rupert's young M.L.A., Jack McRae, for his vigorous speech in the Legislature at the end of the week when he charged that the people of the north were being penalized for the benefit of the people of the south of the province.

Mr. McRae really went to bat in the matter of highways. It is to be hoped that full and immediate attention will be paid to his demand in regard to the road from the city to the industries of Port Edward. Two or three years ago assurances were given that this road would be hard-surfaced and be in good shape before the opening of the pulp mill. Instead of that, the road only a few days ago was all but impassable and its condition was causing general protest. That is the situation as the Columbia Cellulose plant is about to go into production. And there is also the important nearby fish-processing industry which does much business with Prince Rupert.

The M.L.A. for Prince Rupert also had something to say about hospital service, suggesting that this city was not getting the same value for its premium dollar as were some other communities in the province.

Now he has had his say in the House and has gone on record publicly, Mr. McRae will, undoubtedly, vigorously follow up the matters about which he complained. The people of his constituency will expect him to do so.

Are We All Dumb?

IT SEEMS a very strange thing that the people right here in Prince Rupert should seem satisfied that their port should remain so continually inactive, that the grain elevator keeps permanently empty and idle and that year after year so little should be done and little said about the opening up of this port as the Pacific coast outlet for the Peace River. And this is mentioning only a few things.

Why should elderly Page Rideout—all respect and power to him—and a Member of Parliament from another corner of the province be more audible apostles on such matters than we ourselves are? Where are the people of Prince Rupert themselves? Where are their own voices?

Surely we are not satisfied to let things go on this way and permit this great port to continue quiet and idle as far as world commerce is concerned, particularly now that trade with the Far East—China and India—is beginning to develop substantially again. Why should it be taken for granted that Vancouver is the only port through which these shipments to the East should be made?

Maybe Prince Rupert people, in their new prosperity, have lost their fighting spirit.

Plenty—In Moderation

ONCE AGAIN we are experiencing shortages of many kinds: of goods, of commodities, of services. For a while, early last year, the supply situation of most things became about equal to demand. But as the year went on, and the international situation became more acute, shortages which have plagued industry and consumers alike these past ten years were back again. In addition, defence plans began to have an effect.

Defence orders this year will be considerably higher than last year, but estimates indicate that even the full weight of the expanded government program will account for little more than five percent of the total national productivity. Even though many materials may become scarcer, relatively few real hardships are likely to result.

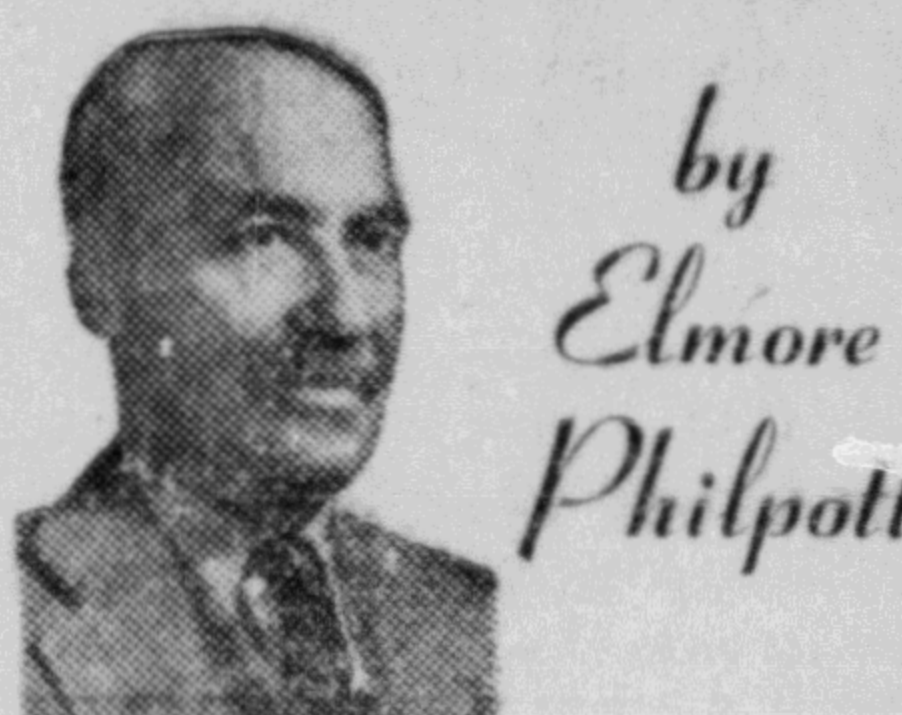
With Canada's total actual productive capacity about double what it was ten years ago, a strong national effort can be made without the need for any extreme dislocation in our present way of living.

The prime need is for self-discipline and moderation. If that is practised, there should be ample necessities—even comforts—to go round.

Scripture Passage for Today

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as is all the churches of the saints." 1 Cor. 14:33.

As I See It



CAIRO MOVIE

CAIRO, EGYPT. — In the English and French language papers published here most of the movies advertised are Hollywood, with a few British productions.

I was determined to see a real Arab movie, so walked to the Opera Cinema on Saturday afternoon.

A seat in the so-called balcony cost me 42 cents (that is 14 piastres, local money). All seats are reserved, and shows do not run continuously. That is, you buy your ticket for a movie just like for the live theatre, and get there at a certain time.

I WAS ASTONISHED at the theatre building. Offhand, I cannot think of one single movie house in Canada so well designed. The seating capacity is not so great as in our larger big city movie houses. But the layout seemed better to me.

The house was very much wider than is the custom with us. Also, the whole floor was on about the same level. First come the orchestra seats, then slightly raised are the loges, or boxes. Then behind the loges is the "balcony," only slightly higher than the rest.

It so happened that some of the top movie stars in this particular play turned up in person, and were immediately recognized and hero-worshipped by the youngsters in front of them.

THE MOVIE ITSELF was called "Ballet El Mahboub." The cast is very small, not more than about a dozen all told. The show is really carried by about three very fine male actors and about three gals who also know their stuff.

Of course, the dialogue was in Arabic, so I only got the general drift of the play. The Boy and Girl love story falls into some kind of complication and Boy falls under the spell of a very competent night club tummy-etc.-wrangling dancer.

This dancer is the mistress of a rich sugar-daddy, of very jealous disposition and who has a violent temper.

The comedians get into the lady dancer's home by mistake when they are supposed to be next door on serious business. When the sugar-daddy knocks, the lady dancer sees the two comedians and then the fun really begins.

Of course, it is what we in America would call "corn on the cob," and the plot is as old as the hills. But the audience loved it. And I must make clear that with the possible exception of a few close-up shots of the dance routine, there was nothing that one might not see in America any week of the year. In other words, the movie was not of the risqué variety.

IF THE AUDIENCE I saw was typical, then audiences here are much more demonstrative and responsive than we are at home. They roared with laughter at all the jokes. They clapped and cheered at all times. They sat on the edges of their seats in the exciting spots.

THEY MAKE THESE MOVIES on the outskirts of Cairo, and they seem to be doing an intelligent job.

But I noticed that with the Egyptian-made feature they showed a Warner Brothers short—the animal cartoon variety. It was in English, I noticed too, that the recorded music with which the show opened began with a medley which started with the Star Spangled Banner.

ON THE WAY HOME TO MY hotel after the show a street peddler sold me two new Malacca canes. I left my two old ones with him, and it was like parting with old friends, for I have carried them for 16 years, over half the world.

My old ones were all scarred with puppy tooth marks where I used to play with our black spaniel, Ruffy, when she was very young.

She'll turn a suspicious sniff on these sleek new ones—maybe smelling of snakes and all sorts of things, for all I know.

Wouldn't it be terrible if Ruffy didn't remember me?

GOOD DEED

KITCHENER, Ont. (CP)—Five members of the 11th Kitchener Rover crew of Boy Scouts did a particularly good deed when they painted the headquarters of the North Waterloo district of the Boy Scouts' Association. The senior scouts did the work on two Saturdays.



PAIR OF QUEENS—Miss Valoree Lord of Winnipeg, queen of the 1951 Banff Winter Carnival, is shown crowning Jean McKay of Revelstoke, queen of the 1952 carnival. The crowning of the 26-year-old Revelstoke girl closed the annual winter sports event.

Report from Parliament

By Edward J. Applewhaite M.P.

I had noticed that when the Dominion government advertises tenders for works in our district, the plans, etc., are always available at the nearest post office to where the work is to be performed and at Ottawa, Victoria and Vancouver.

So I took the matter up with the Minister of Public Works pointing out that, while these plans should always be available where the work is to be done, Prince Rupert is the only city in the riding and that several of Skeena's largest contractors are located there, also that it takes time to get plans and specifications in from Vancouver, and that they should always be made available at Prince Rupert as well as at the scene of the job. Mr. Fournier, the Minister, has now advised me: "Instructions have been issued to the proper offices of the Department in future cases of calls for public tenders in the Skeena District to have plans and specifications available at the Post Office Building at Prince Rupert, B.C."

VISITOR FROM HOME — It was a great pleasure to me a few days ago to have W. J. Davies of Queen Charlotte City walk in to my office. Visitors from home are a rare occurrence for me, so it is somewhat of a gala occasion. While here, Bill interested himself in the proposed floats for Queen Charlotte and discussed them with Mr. Fournier, Minister of Public Works.

EVERYTHING UP—According to figures just made available, aggregate payrolls, average hourly earnings, and average weekly salaries and wages in Canadian manufacturing industries reached new peaks in December.

Production of automobiles in December totalled 30,783 as against 30,222 in November and 25,921 in the same month of 1949.

DIVORCE BILL—The annual flow of divorce bills has started—in fact it's well under way—I estimate about forty of them are now on the Order Paper. Fortunately, they don't usually take up much time in the Commons, as all the heavy work involved is done in Senate Committees.

CHIVALRY—In a debate on a private member's bill the other day we had some excitement when our only lady member, Mrs. Fairclough, and the old war-horse, Jean Francois Pouliot, tangled horns. Although Mrs. Fairclough is a Conservative and Pouliot, like the majority of us, a Liberal, still the sympathies of the House, in that particular clash, was all with Mrs. Fairclough. Incidentally, she held her own, without needing any sympathy.

GEORGE MURRAY — Our friend, George Murray of Cariboo, got into the debate on the resolution asking for federal aid to education, and made an excellent speech. George opened his remarks by making it clear that he is opposed to the resolution (as I think most of us are). But he did favor Dominion assistance in such practical matters as prospecting, and, using his own district as an example, said that the old-timers knew where there was manganese for instance, and the Dominion might well assist in its re-discovery and development, as part of the defence ef-

ray..

Reflects and Reminisces

The same sort of nervousness experienced in the homes of Canada between 1939 and 1945 is being felt again. The Princess Pats have had their first casualties in Korea. From Ottawa will come messages "regretting to inform." Yes, there is war in the world in its full and complete sense, even if last July it was called police action.

Daylight saving remains a nuisance but the chances are there won't be so much of it. There are signs in Victoria that its application will be restricted to July and August. A proclamation is on the way and whatever the government will do to shorten it should be OK with everyone, anyway.

Prince Rupert has been having a lack of telephones for years. Service was started very early in the city's history. Duff Pattullo had something to do with that. Well, if there are too few phones here today, Prince Rupert has abundant company. Taking the province as a whole, 23,000 British Columbians are still on the waiting list. Of course (or perhaps you've guessed it) continental defence preparations continue to cut into material required in the manufacture of the almost indispensable phone.

There will not be the slightest chance of having sweepstakes in Canada or even a more modest form of gambling. No one has ever lived in expectation anyway. But this, you see, is Ottawa's way of emphasizing that defence expenses will make your spare dollars even scarcer.

Most of us think of Hansard, official record of what is said in the Federal Parliament, as a document from which nothing is missed. However, the Progressive-Conservative leader, Mr. Drew, has made a motion concerning certain members, removing from the record, words they had uttered, but had no wish to have reported. That would not make 100 percent Hansard.

Princess Pats have only arrived on the Korean battle line, but already they are letting the home front know they have never needed socks worse. Nearly every pair is full of holes. Mothers, sisters, cousins and

ALL PAID

PORT ARTHUR, Ont. (CP)—Mayor F. O. Robinson was one of 20 householders who forfeited fines and court costs of \$10.00 each for failing to produce their radio licences when inspectors made a check.



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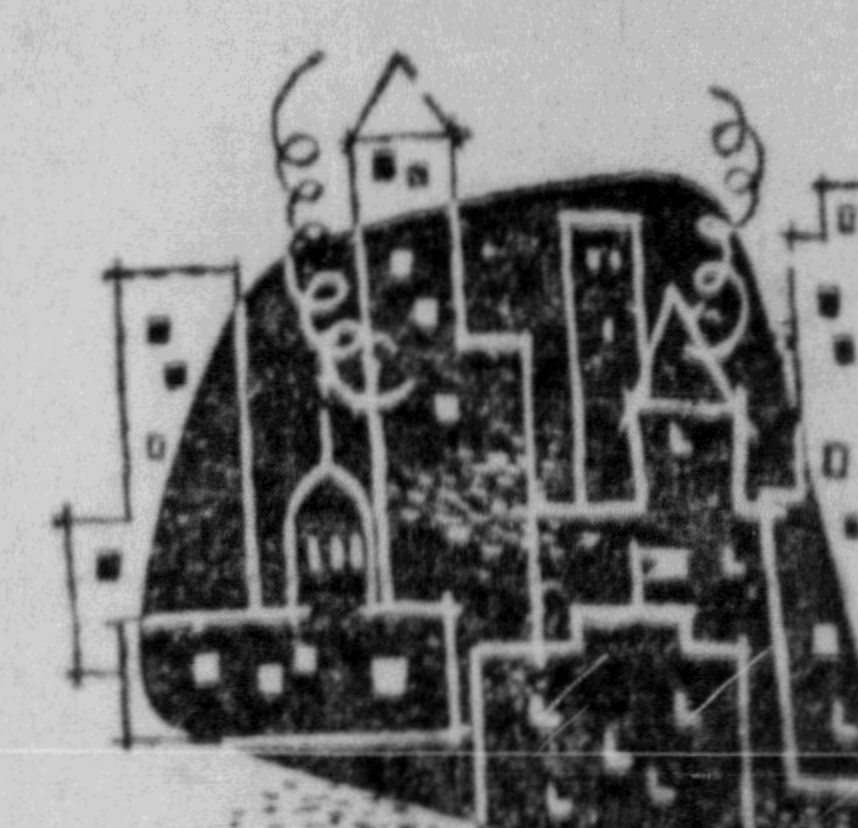


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