

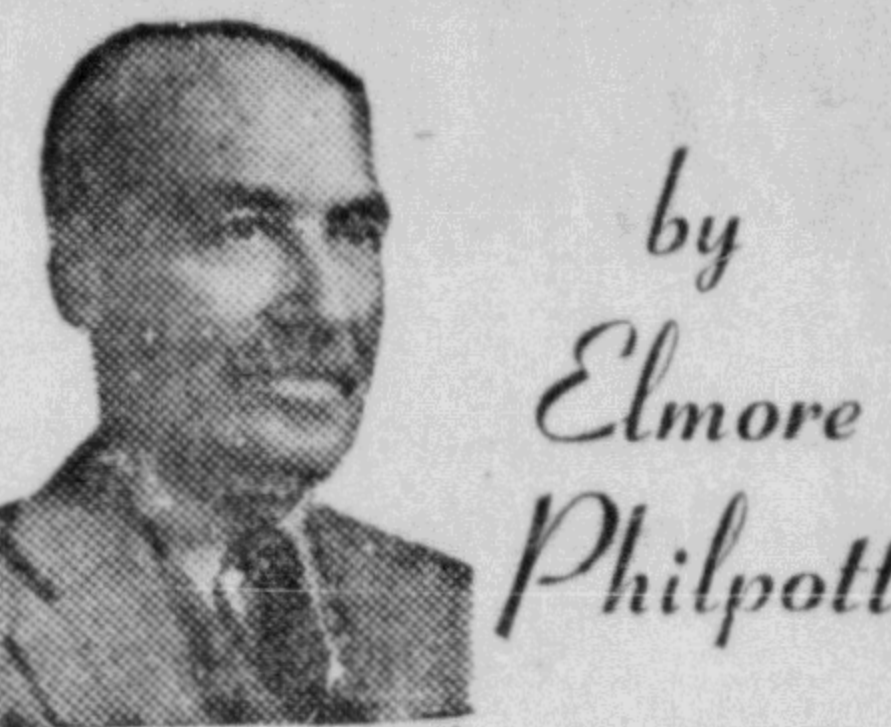
Independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations Canadian Daily Newspaper Association

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

**As I See It**



by  
*Elmore  
Philpott*

**THE SCHOOL PICTURE**

**NEW DELHI, India—**  
The most difficult picture for a visitor to get in India concerns education.

That is partly because, as in Canada and the U.S.A., responsibility for education rests on the provinces or states, and not in the central authority.

It is also partly because there is such a wide variation from province to province. All are moving toward the goal of compulsory primary education. Some provinces (such as Delhi) have compulsory education in theory already. For, as I myself found from asking direct questions in some villages, the facts do not always accord with the theory. Even in the model Bawana villages only 30 percent of the youngsters attend school. In another settlement, housing 32,000 refugees, I found 100 percent attendance.

**BUT IN BROADEST OUTLINE,** here is the main fact since the Indians took over their own government in 1947:

The number of scholars has tripled and the total expenditure on education has doubled.

In Bombay Province, for instance, 20 percent of the provincial budget now goes for education, as against 10 percent before the transfer of power. All the provinces have set the figure of 20 percent as their target. At the moment they vary from 10 percent on upwards to the 20.

**THE MOST INTERESTING** form of adult education is the so-called travelling fair.

I shall be writing more later about this, as I have an invitation to go out to a village and see one operating. But meanwhile, here is the general idea:

They have so-called travelling caravans with four teams in each. In one caravan there is an entertainment troupe. In another there is a reading and writing teaching team. In a third there is a health and cleanliness education outfit. The fourth, I believe, is for education in foods and home-making.

When the "fair" hits a town, they get the whole population interested by putting on a bang-up entertainment show. Then after they have the people all interested they go to work on them with the more serious business.

Best of all, they do not go to a new community in the first place unless they have sufficient trained teachers to leave behind 20 in each district. These teams of 20 stay for several weeks in each place so visited.

**TEACHING OF THE THREE R's** in this part of the world is a much more difficult job than it is in America because of the shortage of training material.

What is the use of teaching people to read or write if there is nothing for them to read when they are taught?

That is why the pace of the adult education movement is kept down to the supply of printed material. Right now, experts loaned to India by UNESCO are in process of getting out suitable new text books.

**INDIA NEEDS HUNDREDS OF** thousands of additional teachers. But the pay is so low that only self-sacrificing people are attracted to the job.

Here in Delhi Province, for instance, the president of the Teachers' Association says that teachers have recently had pay cuts from 110 to 69 rupees per month for headmasters of municipal schools. "It is a matter of great shame," he said, "that many teachers are earning less than 55 rupees a month, while municipal sweepers are paid 75 rupees per month."

There are roughly four rupees to our dollar. Of course, food and rents are cheaper here than in Canada.

**FOR ALL THAT IS WRONG** with the picture—and that is plenty—the main trend is quite clear. India is taking slow but good steps towards a better education for her people.

Characteristically, she is not proceeding by one set national plan. But rather, here and there, are really bright examples—usually the result of having some really fine people at the centre of things in that particular spot. The idea is that the good example should catch on with other places not so favored in the beginning.



**HIGHWAY PADRE**—Captain Walter A. Mann of Toronto, newly-appointed padre for the Canadian Army's Northwest Highway system, examines the chalice he will carry on tours of his far-flung parish. He will be responsible for spiritual welfare of soldiers and their families along the 1,221-mile Alaska Highway—"biggest parish" in the Canadian Army.

(CP from National Defence)

**THE LETTERBOX**

**THE THING STINKS**

Editor, Daily News:  
What is happening to our natural resources in this give-away policy to encourage big business to come in.

Our provincial government has given to the Aluminum Co. of Canada a huge slice of British Columbia to develop hydro-electric power. Also with this big chunk of British Columbia goes all the mineral rights in that area. One must really look at a map of this big industrial empire to fully realize how much has been lost by the people of the province.

Next to get big concessions is a steel company which wants its name withheld. They would build steel smelters and mills to develop the iron in British Columbia.

The provincial government has sent out notices through the Department of Mines that all iron ore and iron deposits are to be withdrawn and held in reserve. What of the forgotten men, the prospectors, the trail blazers, the pioneers who really discovered the mines of British Columbia, the iron mines, and have been waiting for industry to catch up and take over their iron and other minerals.

I want to tell you, Mr. Editor, the whole thing stinks. There is something rotten in British Columbia.

**CHARLES VALLEY**  
Queen Charlotte City.

**NEW METHOD**  
**DARTMOUTH, N.S. (CP)**—A revolutionary method of housing construction using foamed slag, manufactured at Sydney, is being adopted by a local company. One house already built is believed the first such in Canada, although the method has been developed in Britain.

**HELP**  
**SICK AND CRIPPLED CHILDREN**

Only a limited number of Easter Seals were mailed this year. If you haven't received yours... don't wait! Please send in your contributions now to:

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**ray..**  
**Reflects and Reminisces**

Prince Rupert has had hundreds of fires, most of them small. The biggest was first. Indeed, it was in advance of the city. A forest covered the townsite and this was cut and burned. The debris smoldered for weeks.

**THIS WAS FIRST**

The town's first theatre stood in old Knoxville, long before incorporation. Knoxville was in the neighborhood of where the railway station now stands. The theatre, so-called, was a fair sized, lonely looking room with modest screen, a seasoned piano, kitchen chairs and benches. The pianist, Frank Stevens, corpulent and good natured, performed faithfully. If not fitfully. Someone called "fire." It didn't amount to much, and we went home and wrote it up. Next day, after the paper was out, Frank called. He pointed solemnly to the story.

"That yours?"  
We nodded. Said Frank "What dy'e think we're running? I never said it was the Alhambra or His Majesty's. Or perhaps you thought it was an even grander playhouse. Tell us." He stroked nearer, and broke into a resounding laugh. A good sort was Frank.

**HARBOR VIEW**

There were fires on the harbor, as well as in town. A blaze started aboard a steamer near CNR dock one day during World War I. There was little chance to save anything. Guarded from contact, she was towed well out toward the opposite shores. And it was there the fire burned itself out.

Early one morning a three-storey apartment block called the Clapp Building at Second Avenue and McBride Street got well away and the flames were not extinguished although there

was no lack of effort. Across the avenue stood the new and handsome Civic Centre. It was still being praised. Would it also burn? Some thought so and risked turning sick from anxiety. Long red streamers burst from the flaming apartment house and all but licked the opposite walls.

**BECOMING MODERN**

Prince Rupert's first hose wagon was known as the Red Devil. It was indeed of crimson hue and to drive it at speed over partly made streets demanded an uncanny skill. Memory seems to suggest the name was given by one Norman McIntosh, a newspaper reporter who served on both the News and the Empire at different times. The Devil was not without its tragic moments. Rounding a bend near Hays Creek bridge, it went over the edge of the avenue once, killing a man.

Destruction of lumber mills at Seal Cove, fires in stores, on waterfront, in lodging houses and at homes, continued through the years. Flames razed the first club (later the Moose Hall) on its tall rock on Second Avenue. Tourists always found there the colorful touch.

**EVERYBODY WORKED**

A fire department, of sorts, existed long before incorporation. Under primitive conditions, nothing any better was possible. There was organization and buckets, a healthy-sized brook and a triangle whose clanging alarm sent everyone racing to do his or her bit. But then, response to a blaze was a general community effort.

**EVER EFFICIENT**

Yes, there were plenty of outbreaks that but for the consistent ability of Prince Rupert's fireman from the beginning to the present, could have been truthfully termed conflagrations. Sometimes, in the waging of war against flames, someone would be missed when it was all over. This was true of the midnight blaze that saw the end of the three-floor Hotel Central at First Avenue and Seventh Street.

**Dragging Fails To Bring Body**

**QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY** (Special to Daily News)—Dragging operations, under the direction of Constable Glen Gordon, RCMP, to recover the body of Gonzague Louis Gendron, missing since last Wednesday and believed drowned, were discontinued yesterday with no results. Comrades of the youth are continuing a search along the beaches but little hope of finding him alive is now being entertained.

**Why Not Here?**

**WITH** Canada's naval shipbuilding program being sharply boosted as part of the growing defence effort and yards in Canada other than those at present probably being allocated work, Prince Rupert may well expect that some of the new jobs may be assigned to the nigh-idle but very capable yard here.

It is not necessary to repeat again—for we have said it so often—the splendid accomplishments of the yard here in the emergencies of two wars when the exigencies of the situation made it essential for the authorities—unwilling or unfriendly as they might have been—to put the plant to use.

It is to be hoped that we will not be given any excuses and subterfuges as to why other shipbuilding monopolies should gobble up this additional work.

It's too bad that it needs a war to put the useful resources and facilities of this part of the country to work but, be that as it may, we should be able to reasonably expect now that the yard will again be put back in use.

**Doctors Are Needed**

**WE** BRITISH COLUMBIANS are fond of pointing grandly to our northern wilderness and saying what opportunities are awaiting there for our young men and women.

There may be wealth and opportunity in the northern hinterland but there is some pretty rough sledding, too, so rough that the majority prefer to hunt for a job in a city and leave the wealth and opportunity to somebody else.

One of the great drawbacks of our frontier was pointed out in the Legislature the other day by young Frank Calder, the CCF member from Atlin, one of our most rugged, sparsely-settled ridings.

He urged greater efforts to provide medical and dental care for the men and women who are doing the B.C. pioneering. Mr. Calder favors air ambulances and flying doctors, dentists and nurses to cover his scattered constituency.

There are at least two good reasons why something should be done to provide the remote areas with more medical and dental care. There is the reason of common humanity. Men and women who are pushing back the bush, developing the province and its resources shouldn't be shut off from the things city people take for granted.

And there is the reason that the sooner good medical and dental services are available in our wild and woolly places the sooner men and women will be ready to spend their lives and bring up their families and develop new wealth in those places.—Vancouver Province.

**Prominent B.C. Mason Passes**

**VANCOUVER**—W. R. Simpson, prominent British Columbia Mason, died suddenly last week. He was a long time resident of

Steveston.  
In 1940 he was Grand Master AF & AM and was appointed Grand Secretary in 1944. He was a Past Master of King Solomon Lodge 17, New Westminster and Acacia Lodge 22, Vancouver.  
He is survived by his wife and two sons, Merlin Robert and William Alton.



"All right, I'll get you a job! Now get me down from here!"



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