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PRINCE RUPERT TODAY
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Prince Rupert Daily News
Monday, June 11, 1951

Kitimat Project Will Affect Economy of Entire Country

[The Daily News takes pleasure in reprinting the following editorial which appeared on the front page of the Omineca Herald, January 26, 1951. The Herald is published weekly in Terrace by Cath and Tommy Fraser.]

The recent news of the signing of an agreement between the Provincial Government and the Aluminum Company of Canada was received by most Terrace and district residents with great rejoicing, by others with a skeptical attitude that it would ever reach realization—still others felt a slight reluctance,

in that their comparatively quiet orderly life would be disrupted—and the few indifferent who have no conception of the magnitude of the project and the far-reaching benefit to the country as a whole.

Our attention has been drawn to a few facts which give food for thought and are worth passing on. To begin with, this \$500 million dollar aluminum plant to come into being but 40 miles from our town will be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, industrial achievements in Canadian history.

The growing world-wide demand for aluminum makes speedy completion of the project of vital importance.

When under full production it is estimated that 300 ocean-going ships a year will call at the port of Kitimat, then to be a city of approximately 50,000 population. What will this mean to Skeena and Bulkley Valley farmers? A natural, easily accessible, unlimited market for their produce.

The proposed Nechako dam will bring Ootsa Lake up to the height of 139 feet above the present level, it is estimated. It will make an "inland sea," V-shaped that will be between 300 and 400 miles from end to end. Ideal for cruise ships—a resort in the mountains—a provincial park—and Burns Lake would be the gateway.

The damming of the Nechako and the diverting of the water west would take approximately 10 per cent of the volume off the Fraser River—what might this do to avert flood waters throughout the entire Fraser Valley district?

At the present time the Canadian rate of exchange from the United States is about four per cent penalty, with the balance of trade against us. When the

Kitimat project gets under way there will be 100,000 tons of aluminum going to the States at \$330 a ton, which would be a new exportable of \$33,000,000, and with additional export to the U.S. by the Columbia Cellulose Company, now almost ready for production in this area, what would this do to the balance of exchange? It wouldn't just help you and me—but everyone in Canada.

Because of this development our town is going to grow, and change, and build beyond our fondest dreams of progress. This will be a great satisfaction to the pioneers who have worked and planned and strived toward this end—often with little help or encouragement from our southern B.C. neighbors.

As one American newspaper puts it: this vast aluminum project is to be developed in the "wilds of British Columbia."

This, then, is our chance to show what our so-called "wilds" can produce and the important part they can play toward Dominion and international expansion and progress.

In 10 years population of Terrace has increased from 355 to more than 2,500. Activities of Aluminum Company of Canada at Kitimat and current woods operations of Columbia Cellulose Company in the Terrace area, tends to make this the fastest growing centre on the continent.

Sir Humphrey Davy, British scientist, made the first and possibly greatest step toward the production of aluminum, as it is known today, when he passed electric current through alumina (oxide of aluminum) and isolated the alloy.

This industry had been attracted by the potential hydro-electric capacity. In the Rupert area itself there is a potential of 100,000 horsepower and only 10,400 horsepower is at present developed. Water consumption in the city is around 3½ million gallons per day with a potential of about five times this amount from the present source.

Electric power is not the only fuel available in the area, however. There are five oil stations in Prince Rupert, with oil and gasoline storage and distribution facilities for the entire northern coast of British Columbia. There is ample coal in the district and several mines in operation. The Columbia Cellulose draws on these reserves for its power supply.

Many excellent industrial sites are available in Prince Rupert and some of these have waterfront facilities. Port Edward, near the Columbia Cellulose mill,

Citizens of Prince Rupert, in their generous hospitality, proudly take a visitor to their lovely Legion club which was built by the Department of National Defence as an officers' wardroom during the last war. The Canadian Legion purchased the building and property from the War Assets Corporation in 1949 and promptly converted it into a centre of which they may well be proud. The establishment now includes, the veterans' premises, an auditorium, general offices, a ladies' lounge and recreation rooms. The lounge and dining room of the beautifully furnished Club 27 overlook the harbor with its colorful sunsets and northern light displays. The genial atmosphere maintained in the club is typical of the hospitality of Rupert itself.

Aluminum salts, found in volcanic districts of the Mediterranean, were first used in medicine and the doctor's art by the Romans in the B.C. era.

Prince Rupert area includes communities of Butedale, Carlisle, Georgetown Mills, Klemtu, Kymista, Port Edward, Port Essington, Port Simpson and Skeena City.



Sights such as this have not been uncommon since the inception of B.C.'s Hospital Insurance Service in 1948. Hospital construction is probably the most important phase of the Insurance Plan, making needed beds available to the citizens of the Province. In the past two years, 450,000 accounts have been paid on behalf of beneficiaries ranging from \$20 to more than \$2,500. Out-of-Province accounts were paid in the United States, Australia, South Africa, Mexico, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden.

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- Sun-lamps - Showers
- Photo Darkroom
- Meeting Rooms



DON FORWARD
General Secretary



THE \$200,000 CIVIC CENTRE BUILDING, bought by the people of Prince Rupert from War Assets Corporation for \$65,000, and now put to use in every phase of activity of the community. The Association has a membership of more than 100 clubs and city organizations, which are allowed full use of meeting rooms, etc.

As the name implies, the Civic Centre is meant to be the focal point of community life. With the advent of Columbia Cellulose Company, the population of our city is showing a steady increase.

We welcome these newcomers to Prince Rupert, and invite them to join with us in making full use of the facilities available in the Civic Centre Building.

The staff of the Civic Centre Association welcomes the opportunity to serve the personnel of the Columbia Cellulose Company. We are prepared to do our part in providing program and facilities to make the leisure hours of all Prince Rupert residents pleasant, profitable and permanent.

A membership in the Civic Centre is more than a personal investment . . . it is an investment in Citizenship.

CIVIC CENTRE ASSOCIATION of PRINCE RUPERT