Today's Weather

Prince Rupert— Raining, calm; barometer, 30:16; temperature, 47; sea smooth.

The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

Tomorrow's Tides

Wednesday, May 27, 1931

High	9:56 a.m.	17:9 ft.
	22:15 p.m.	20:5 ft.
Low	3:40 a.m.	5:9 ft.
	15:46 p.m.	5:9 ft.

Vol. XXII., No. 122 — PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1931 — PRICE FIVE CENTS

MICHAEL SOWRY SENTENCED TO HANG

QUEEN HELEN IS EXPELLED AS MEMBER OF ROYAL FAMILY

Peace River Murder Case Ends Saturday Night In Conviction

Hythe, Alta. Man Found Guilty of Killing Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Babchuk in Lonely Cabin Near Fort St. John Last Summer

PRINCE GEORGE, May 26:—After a trial extending over several days, Michael Sowry of Hythe, Alta., was found guilty by a jury at the Supreme Court Assizes here on the charge of murdering Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Babchuk in a lonely cabin in the Fort St. John district last August, and was sentenced to be hanged by Mr. Justice W. A. Macdonald on August 14 next. The jury reached its verdict Saturday night after two and a half hours' deliberation. A. M. Johnson K.C., acted as crown prosecutor while J. A. Russell of Vancouver was defence counsel.

Direct Defence

In opening the case for the defence Saturday morning, J. A. Russell, defence counsel, stated that the defence would be a short direct one, depending mainly upon the statements made by the accused from the witness box.

Sowry then entered the box. He said he was a Ukrainian, 53 years of age, had been in Canada 34 years and married 33 years. By trade he was a carpenter and farmer. He had first gone to Hythe in May, 1929 and had a homestead at Keg River.

Accused said he had first met Babchuk at his house in June. Babchuk asked him to go to Fort St. John with him to act as witness at Babchuk's filing upon the homestead at Cecil Lake. This he did and Babchuk became very friendly. He asked Sowry to take the adjoining homestead and offered to break an acre of land for him.

From this point Sowry related in his own words the events that happened until after August 19 when the murder was committed. On August 11 he took his son, who had broken his ankle, from Hythe in his car to the hopsital at Pouce Coupe. There he met four men, one of whom was a Russian, who wished him to take them to Fort St. John in his car. This he agreed to do for $3 each. He described how he had considerable trouble with his car on the trip and how after he had worked at his stalled car for an hour near the Peace River, the passengers had left him. Fixing the car, he travelled some distance farther until the car stalled again. Finding that it could not be repaired, he made a roll of his quilt, pillow and such provisions as he had and slinging them upon his back, started to walk to Babchuk's place. He told of having seen Ben Simpson and offered to take him to Hythe for $2.50. He corroborated witness Aldrich's evidence that he had stayed there overnight, finally reaching Babchuk's on the fourteenth. Babchuk took him out to look for land and he slept at Babchuk's the night of the fourteenth. On the fifteenth he helped clear land and stayed at Runca's who had a farm nearby, on the fifteenth. On the sixteenth he accompanied Runca and his companions to Fort St. John. From Pakula, one of the men, he obtained a set of coil points for his car. He got a ride on a wagon to the hill where his car was. He repaired the car and drove in to Arnett's store. He heard of some good land farther north, so, leaving the car at the store, he started walking north.

The next day, August 17, Sowry testified that he walked several miles and slept alongside the road on the seventeenth. Returning, he arrived in Fort St. John on the eighteenth. At Fort St. John he bought supplies and spent the night of the eighteenth, when the murder was supposed to have been committed, alongside the road, one and a half miles from Fort St. John. On the nineteenth he met Simpson and asked him if he still wished to go to Hythe. Simpson replied that he did, and returned to his home to get his pack.

The Russian

While waiting for Simpson Sowry stated that he saw the Russian whom he had taken part way to Fort St. John on the twelfth. He asked the Russian for the dollar which he owed him for fare. The Russian told him he was short of money but took a suit from a package he was carrying and offered it to him. For the money he owed and three dollars, Sowry bought the suit. This suit he identified as the

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COLUMBIA REFLOATS

American Halibut Schooner Sustained Little Damage as Result of Contact With Reef

With little difficulty, the American halibut schooner Columbia, which ran ashore on the reef near the mouth of Metlakatla Passage Saturday morning while coming in with a catch of halibut, was refloated about 5:30 the same evening. The vessel sustained little if any damage and, after discharging her fish, she left the same night for Ketchikan where such repairs as are necessary will be made.

COMPOSES SONG HIT

Mrs. Carmichael, Formerly of This City, Contracts With Firm of Publishers

Word has been received in this city that Mrs. James Carmichael, former well known pioneer resident of Prince Rupert, has contracted with a firm of music publishers for the publication of a song of her own composition entitled "Blue Waters Are Calling." The music sheet is being headed "The Sensational Song Hit of the Season."

Mrs. Carmichael, who has long written poetry for a hobby, now lives in Santa Monica, California

Vancouver Wheat

VANCOUVER, May 26: — Wheat was quoted at 58⅛c on the local exchange today.

Women Aviators Took Part In Carnival

Women aviators who took part in first women's air carnival at airport, Baltimore, Md. Left to right: Mary C. Alexander, Lynchburg, Va., Katrina Canning, Wilmington, Del., Frances Harrell, Valley Stream, N.Y., Ruby Harrell, Baltimore, Md., Thelma Elliott, Baltimore Md., Laura Morgan, Valley Stream, N.Y., Juliet Marston, Caldwell, N.J., and Maria S. Chadbourne N.Y.

WELL KNOWN WOMAN DIES

Mrs. Ted Rorvik Passes Away Very Suddenly on Saturday Afternoon

The death occurred very suddenly in the Prince Rupert General Hospital last Saturday afternoon of Mrs. Freda Jennie Rorvik, wife of Ted Rorvik, 134 Fifth Avenue East. She had been ill only a very short time.

Born in Norway, 34 years ago, the late Mrs. Rorvik had been a resident of Prince Rupert for 10 years. Besides the widower, she is survived by two small sons, Pete, aged 10, and George, aged 6. Peter Sunderland of this city is a brother. The family will have the sympathy of many friends in its sad and tragic bereavement.

Funeral arrangements are in the hands of the B. C. Undertakers and interment will take place tomorrow.

GAMBLING OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 26:—Hundreds if not thousands, of government employees engage in gambling on horse races, baseball games, etc. it was charged by Representative J. C. Schaeffer of Wisconsin on Saturday. There would be more efficiency in the government service if there were less time spent on gambling, Schaeffer asserted in the course of a scorching denunciation.

Complete Pacific Great Eastern For Relief Is Urged

VANCOUVER, May 26—Completion of the P.G.E., from Vancouver to Prince George, to provide work for unemployed, thus "killing two birds with one stone," was suggested in a letter from Charles Woodward, read at the civic finance committee meeting. Mr. Woodward also explained that arrangements could be made at the same time to settle unemployed on the farm land adjacent to the railway.

Robert J. Cromie

Editor and owner of the Vancouver Sun, is a self-made man of outstanding character, and is widely known in the public life of this continent. He is intensely Canadian and has a grasp of world wide economics gained through extensive travel and creative thinking. While not an orator, he has the happy faculty of presenting his thoughts in an unusually interesting and enlightening manner. He has a forceful character and a pleasing personality. Mr. Cromie was born in 1887 at Scotstown, Que., of English and Irish parents. He came to Vancouver in 1909. He is the father of five children. His home and all his interests are centred in British Columbia.

In his efforts to advance Canadian overseas trade and the interests of British Columbia, Mr. Cromie recently completed a world tour when he made a study of conditions and comparisons in other lands with Canada. These he vividly portrays in his inimitable manner to his audiences. He will speak in Prince Rupert on June 6.

The Weather

Langara Island—Raining, light southwest wind; sea calm.

Dead Tree Point—Overcast, calm barometer, 30:18; temperature, 48; sea smooth.

HELEN IS EXPELLED

Removed From Royal Rank By Roumanian Government

BUCHAREST, Roumania, May 26:—Because she will not return to her husband King Carol, Queen Helen was expelled from the Royal Family by decree of Parliament yesterday. She will no longer enjoy the rights and honors accorded royalty.

It is stated that the former queen will leave the country permanently.

VICTIMS OF SLOW POISON

Woman Charged With Murdering Five People to Obtain Life Insurance

CHICAGO, May 26:—Mrs. Margaret Summers, 47 year old widow, was held to the grand jury on four charges of murder today at the recommendation of the coroner's jury which heard the evidence that four men who died in her home were victims of slow poisoning.

Mrs. Summers was the beneficiary in life insurance policies of ten persons, five of whom died at her home, including her husband, her orphaned nephew and two boarders.

WIN SOCCER

LONDON, Ont., May 26:—Opening a Canadian tour here, the English Football Association select team defeated an all-star eleven of London and district by a score of 4 to 1.

CONVERSION LOAN IS OVERSUBSCRIBED

OTTAWA, May 26: — The conversion loan of $250,000,000 has been oversubscribed by more than $350,000,000, Premier R. B. Bennett told the House of Commons on Monday. While the exact figures are as yet not set, it is clear that more than $600,000,000 was taken in.

Warmer Weather With More Rain Is Needed by Crops of Prairie; Some Precipitation Last Week

WINNIPEG, May 26:—Cool days with frosty nights, and precipitation, varying from heavy rains and snowfalls to local showers and snow flurries, characterized the weather vagary in the crop growing areas of Western Canada during the past week, according to the weekly crop report of the department of agriculture, Canadian National Railways. Wheat seeding is finished and all seeding is completed with the exception of a little barley and a small acreage of flax. Wheat, barley and oat fields have, in many districts been showing green but growth has been cut back to ground surface in areas where frost was more severe. Damage, however, will not be permanent.

Southern Manitoba points report heavy snow with rainfalls which have assured sufficient moisture for some time. Light frosts have caused damage to oats and to some wheat fields, but damage is practically insignificant and will not mar the ultimate harvest.

Along the Brandon, Wawanesa, Hartney, Carberry, Rossburn subdivisions weather has been exceptionally cool and has retarded growth. Seeding has been somewhat delayed on account of strong winds and frosty nights. Frost damage was more severe on these subdivisions and farmers, whose fields have been frozen, are undecided whether to plough under and reseed or let present seed remain in the hope of complete recovery. Warm weather is needed. The Swan River valley reports six degrees of frost and also desires warmer weather and additional moisture.

In Southern Saskatchewan, along the Lampman, Avonlea, Gravelbourg, Central Butte, Riverhurst subdivisions, cool weather predominated with high winds. Scattered rain showers and snow helped to minimize soil drifting but a general soaking would be beneficial.

The Quappelle subdivision reports cut worms active in the Balcarres district.

High Winds

The territory embraced by the Rosetown, Conquest, Craik, Elrose subdivisions have experienced high winds, dust, rain, frost and snow and early sown wheat is showing effects of wind and frost, and, in some of these localities a little reseeding will have to be done.

In East Central Saskatchewan, the Touchwood, Yorkton, Rhein, Asquith, Dodsland subdivisions also report some heavy winds with frosty nights. The damage varies from zero to 10% in some localities.

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Hon. Geo. Black Named on Yukon Road Committee

VICTORIA, May 23—Hon. George Black, Speaker of the House of Commons, Ottawa, has been appointed to the Canadian membership of the international committee, which will this summer investigate the feasibility of the Golden Twilight Highway through Northern B. C. and the Yukon to Alaska.

Premier Tolmie acquainted the B. C. Government of the appointment, which changes the personnel of the Canadian representation on the committee. Capt. Black replaces James McNeill, who had been named as representing the Yukon group.

FUNERAL OF JOE McPHEE

Popular Pioneer of District Laid to Rest Sunday Under Auspices of Canadian Legion

Many friends of deceased, including ex-service men and pioneers, turned out at the chapel of the B. C. Undertakers Sunday afternoon to pay their final tributes of respect to the memory of the late Joseph N. McPhee at his funeral.

The funeral was held under the auspices of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League. Rev. Charles E. Motte officiated and Mrs. M. A. Way presided at the organ for the hymns which were "Lead Kindly Light" and "Nearer My God to Thee."

A large procession followed the cortege to the last resting place in Fairview Cemetery. Interment was made in the soldiers' plot and the Last Post was sounded by Bugler William Rance as the casket was lowered into the grave. Members of the Canadian Legion acted as pallbearers.

Unemployed Stage Riot Today In Winnipeg; Two Policemen And One Workman Are Injured

WINNIPEG, May 26.—Two members of the police force and one workman were injured this morning when unemployed rioted at the central steam heating plant of the Northern Public Utilities Co. One hundred men were to be engaged to lay steam pipe and 1500 appeared for the jobs. The disappointed began throwing stones at the machinery and forty policemen were rushed to the scene. The police were greeted with a barrage of missiles.

The rioters were finally quietened. Alexander Bronsy was arrested.

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral of the late Mrs. Ted Rorvick will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 from the Parlors of the B. C. Undertakers. Rev. W. D. Grant Hollingworth officiating.

QUEEN MARY SIXTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE

SANDRINGHAM, Eng., May 26:—Queen Mary was 64 years of age today. Felicitations poured in on her from a wide circle of relatives, friends, and admirers.