

## SHE must have ME BOVRIL

When "she" has  
that sinking feeling.  
Bovril is a fine pick-me-up.  
The strength of Beef.

## IS GOOD PICTURE

Peggy Shannon Makes Excellent  
Debut in "Secret Call" at  
Capitol Theatre

"The Secret Call," current offering at the Capitol Theatre, is another of the attractive legitimate dramas which has been transferred from the stage to the screen. The story, based on "The Woman," produced nearly two years ago, has been changed considerably and

not without effect. It deals with the love of an heiress for the son of an unscrupulous politician and also with much wealth. The girl's father is shouldered with some of the dirty doings of the politician and it is the girl's effort to clear her father's name that makes the drama of the picture.

The role of the girl was to have been played by Clara Bow but is in the hands of Peggy Shannon who makes her debut as a featured screen player. Shannon possesses charm of facial expression, has real interpretative power and can handle the dialogue very capably. She should become a great screen favorite. Richard Arlen is

quite up to his usual fine standard in the leading role. William B. Davidson gives a well-drawn portrait of the tricky political leader. The comedy is supplied by Ned Sparks, who provides the only laughs in the film.

T. H. Johnson, manager of the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. was the speaker at the regular weekly luncheon of the Prince Rupert Rotary Club in the Commodore Cafe. He told interestingly of a recent tour of Eastern Canada and the United States. President G. H. Munro was in the chair.



### Severe Headaches Pimples on Face

Miss Marie L. C. Blackwell, Oxnark, Alta., writes: "For two years I suffered from severe headaches, and pimples on my face. My headaches seemed incurable, and I thought the pimples would never disappear. A friend recommended Burdock Blood Bitters, and on trying a bottle I found the headaches disappear, and I am not bothered any more with the pimples."

For sale at all drug and general stores; manufactured for the past 52 years, only by The T. Milburn Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

Trial of Bert Mitchell and Joe Bretteon on charges of theft of firewood is proceeding before Magistrate McClymont in city police court this afternoon, the hearing have been started this morning.

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## City Finances Discussed by Ratepayers Association at Largely Attended Meeting

(continued from page 1)

there was a great field for usefulness in constructive criticism.

Mr. Stephens' address was as follows:

### Mr. Stephens' Speech

"To me has fallen the task of explaining some of the matters affecting the ratepayers of this city. Under the circumstances it is perhaps less difficult to criticize than to offer ways and means of remedying the situation. It is a situation that has been developing for several years and is largely due to lack of courage of councils for the time being to balance their budgets. Whatever the causes, however, it is time the ratepayers were taking an active interest in the matter for in the end it is the ratepayer who foots the bills, and no greater evidence of his waning faith in his holdings should be necessary than a perusal of the map showing the lots that have reverted to the city through tax sales. There can be no more convincing proof of the foolishness of an highly inflated assessment of property than the fact that the city is now the owner of more than one half of all the lots in the city, with others coming on at the rate of from 250 to 300 lots per year.

"When property is not worth the taxes it becomes a serious matter. This is not the result of the present depression. Not more than five or six hundred of the reverted lots have come to the city since the present depression commenced. The process has been under way for some fifteen years, and is becoming more and more acute as time goes on. As a result of the reversion of all this property to the city it becomes evident that the remaining property owners must make up the entire levy without any assistance whatever from the reverted area. This is not all. While these lots have been reverting our costs have been extended until in 1930 it cost approximately \$190,000 more to run the city than in 1917, and 1917 was a war year when our money was depreciated and heavy costs for exchange had to be met for meeting obligations maturing in New York.

### Drifting Along

"We have been drifting along with development ideas, and indeed works too, for a city of 60,000 people while we have only some 8,000 to provide for many of whom are not taxpayers. Is it not time that we realized the seriousness of the situation? The 1931 census gives us a smaller population than we had a decade ago. Our municipal expenses are higher. Ten years ago there were surpluses left from former councils of approximately \$100,000. This year there will probably be a deficit of \$100,000. This year's taxes at October 1 had been paid to the extent of 85% as to general taxes and 60% as to local improvement taxes, yet the city had borrowed \$125,000 from the bank and are said to have used a balance shown as a credit of \$109,000 from the sale of the hydro-electric, plus another \$35,000 for current expenses from the same fund. Assuming that all the balance of unpaid taxes for 1931

will be paid, and this is extremely doubtful, it would only give some \$70,000 to credit against these items. Of course there may be some bonds for recent improvements which have not, or cannot, be sold to place against these borrowings, but an estimate of \$100,000 deficit for the year should not be much too high if it is high enough.

"Few cities have taxpayers who have lived on faith and hope as long as those of Prince Rupert," continued Mr. Stephens, "but the time is here, when we should look the matter squarely in the face and try to put ourselves right before it is too late. A movement is already on foot among some of the important taxpayers to club together to fight the present assessment if necessary, in the courts next year, and this movement is gaining strength daily both with local and out-of-town property owners, and it would appear that the council of the day should take stock of the situation and having regard to the present depression, and also to efficiency, try to meet the emergency by the strictest economy.

### Reduce Overhead

"There may be unpleasant tasks to perform but it is my opinion that with wise and careful consideration of the matter and with courage on the part of the council and co-operation of employees, the city's overhead can be reduced by about \$50,000 a year without serious impairment to any service. Economic measures have had to be practiced in every successful business and the city should practice it also, especially in view of its present financial predicament. At a time like the present I would suggest that the mayor and council serve without remuneration until such time as the city is in a better financial position. This would set a good example, and pave the way for thorough co-operation in the several departments. The school board should co-operate with the city also, and assist in getting back to normal conditions. We cannot continue to drift much further without defaulting in our obligations, even with the prospect of much higher anticipated taxes. Default means bankruptcy, and bankruptcy will bring a receiver. What are we going to do about it?"

Questions were asked Alderman Pullen by M. M. Stephens, Alex Prudhomme, and George Casey. Mr. Stephens explained that the city claimed credit for something over \$60,000 unpaid taxes but as most of these taxes would never be paid they were really not a credit. This, together with the acknowledged over-expenditure, would make up about \$100,000.

Mr. Prudhomme expressed the opinion that it might not be wise to materially reduce the assessment as long as it was made equitable. President Wesch thanked Alderman Pullen for being present and giving them the information in regard to the city finances. The object of the association was not to embarrass the city council but to assist it.

# FAITH AND CONFIDENCE

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,  
Ottawa, 23rd November, 1931

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## Twenty Years Ago

In Prince Rupert

November 26, 1911

Ratepayers of the city turned down by a vote of 184 to 86 the proposed Hays Creek sewer project.

John Crawford, a young man who recently arrived from North Dakota, was killed last night in a fall

from the unprotected sidewalk at the corner of Second Avenue and Eighth Street. His skull was fractured. Small boys found the body this morning and told Thomas Trotter who notified the police.

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