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New Development Era For City and District Hereabouts Is Started

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warm thanks and commendation of every citizen.
"During the year many matters of interest were taken up. I will not bore you with details of all these matters, but will touch on one or two of the most important.

Hecate Straits Navigation

"Most of you are familiar with the persistent efforts of this chamber during the last few years to have the lighting of Hecate Straits brought up to the requirements of Lloyds underwriters, in order to facilitate the shipping of wheat, etc. from this port. Most of the improvements requested have now materialized, but there still remains the necessity for a watched light with fog-horn on Bonilla Island, and I have no doubt that with continued pressure from this chamber and other interested bodies this will be forthcoming. There have also been a number of radio beacons installed at various points which are of great assistance to mariners.

"Owing to the extremely isolated position of a number of light houses in this district, this chamber took up the matter of the installation of radio-telephones in light houses and some of these have already been installed, and will prove invaluable in cases of serious accident or sickness to the occupants and to vessels in distress.

"Along with other civic bodies this chamber has through the postmaster general and other channels stressed the need of this city for a more modern and up-to-date building to house the post office and other federal departments. From the latest information to hand I can advise that the authorities are at least showing some interest in the matter, and I trust that some definite action will be taken in the near future.

"The Peace River outlet is another matter of vital importance to this city, and your chamber has been very actively engaged in this and has used every endeavor in co-operation with the special Peace River Outlet Committee and the City Council to place the advantages of this port before those most closely interested, including the members of the House of Commons at Ottawa and the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway executives. I wish to express my warm appreciation of the services rendered by Aid. Pillsbury, chairman of the Peace River Outlet Committee of this chamber, and to Aid. Colhart chairman of the Peace River Outlet Association. I am firmly convinced that Prince Rupert is the logical and most economic outlet for this vast new country and must be established as such if sound and unbiased judgment is given to the matter.

Highway Construction

"I am glad to report also that the new Prince Rupert to Prince George Highway is progressing slowly but surely. The bridge over Galloway Rapids is now in course of construction, and will no doubt, be completed before the end of April. I trust the provincial government will prosecute this work with all possible despatch.

"The position with regard to our grain elevator during 1930 has been decidedly unsatisfactory, only one solitary ship loading from this port. No doubt, one of the reasons for this failure of the wheat pool to market their crop, but in my opinion one of the most important features detrimental to shipping from Prince Rupert is our inability to provide part cargoes of other commodities. As we have no other commodity to export, the shippers are very reluctant to send vessels to this port. In this connection I would state that this chamber has tried many times to induce the provincial government to sanction the export of logs in order to complete cargoes, but so

far it has steadfastly refused to do so. It will take continuous effort from this body to secure proper justification for the erection of the elevator at this point.

"Another source of bitter disappointment has been the failure of the C. N. Railways to proceed with the erection of a hotel here. Many of you will recall that when Sir Henry Thornton visited Prince Rupert last summer he stated definitely that construction of the hotel would commence before the end of the year. In all fairness to Sir Henry, I must say that I do not for one moment imagine that he anticipated the financial debacle which was to follow, and which created a situation which was to upset the calculations and plans of commercial and industrial organizations from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It would seem perfectly natural for us to condemn the railway company for this apparent breach of faith, but I think we ought to try and look upon this in as broad a light as possible. The C. N. Railways were compelled to cut down their proposed expenditures by \$30,000,000 and all new work not actually under course of construction and not of vital importance was, I believe suspended. Just as soon as conditions readjust themselves and the business of the railway warrants, more especially the tourist business, I believe the hotel will be proceeded with.

"Your chamber sent delegations to the semi-annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of Central British Columbia held at Terrace, and also to the annual convention of the same body at Prince George. Many matters of interest and importance to this district, which stretches from Stewart to McBride, were taken up and action taken. I may say that I consider this organization one of the most important in Central B. C., and would urge the support of this chamber be given to it to the fullest possible extent.

Joint Hosts

"On several occasions this chamber and the City of Prince Rupert were joint hosts and these were invariably of a most enjoyable and harmonious nature. In this connection I wish to thank the entertainment committee for the excellent manner in which these parties and individuals were catered to. I am glad to say the finances of the chamber, though not by any means affluent, are in a fairly satisfactory condition. We have at present 110 members, 21 of whom were new members last year. Let me at this time urge every member to attend as many meetings as possible. From time to time there are many questions arising which require a great deal of discussion, and upon which the opinion of any one member might prove invaluable.

"I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the mayor and city council for their loyal co-operation at all times and to express our sincere thanks to the president and directors of the Prince Rupert Club for their unflinching courtesy in extending the privileges of the club premises to our guests on every occasion.

"I also would like to thank the proprietors of our two daily newspapers for the faithful and comprehensive manner in which they have recorded the proceedings of the chamber throughout the year.
"In conclusion gentlemen, allow me to say this: That although the clouds of depression are at present lowering thickly overhead, I firmly believe that they will soon begin to disperse, and it is my earnest wish that 1931 will see the sun of prosperity burst forth in all its power, and that it will envelop each and everyone of you in its rays of warmth, comfort and well being."

G. P. TINKER.

PROPERTY OWNERS ARE DIVIDED UPON MATTER OF IMPROVEMENT TAX

(Continued from Page One)

opinion on the matter of the improvement tax. Personally, he felt that it would hinder building and development in the city, particularly if introduced at the present time. Improvement tax might be all right for a large city but he felt it would be harmful for a small town like this. Mr. Perry urged that more interest be taken by the citizens in the activities of the city council. If such interest manifested, there would be better councils, he believed.

Ex-Ald. G. B. Casey, speaking at some length, pointed out that there was never a tax introduced without having at first been considered unjust. The welfare and growth of the city should be considered and the citizens should face their responsibilities in a large way and not alone as individual taxpayers. If there were not sufficient resources for taxation at present available to meet obligations some other means would have to be found. Revenue must be obtained to meet the obligations. So far, there had been only the land tax here and for years property had continued to revert to the city in great quantities. The smaller the quantity of taxable land, the higher it would have to be taxed. It was true that new forms of taxation had never stopped anybody from using what he needed for expanding. The policy of having unimproved land, which itself produced no revenue, having to bear all the taxation did not appear to him as being a fair basis. Revenue producing property and there were buildings here which were earning big profits, did not have to pay a cent in taxation. Besides Prince Rupert, Mr. Casey pointed out that there were only two other cities in British Columbia today operating with the single tax. In his opinion, the double tax was the most equitable arrangement.

Canvass Aldermen

Mr. Perry felt that every member of the city council and every candidate should be asked for his views on the question of the improvement tax.

J. A. Curtis stated that he did not own any vacant property in the city now, all his property having buildings or improvements upon it. Yet he agreed with Mr. Casey in the matter of improvement tax. If a man stood to make money on a building, he would put it up improvement tax or not. It was hardly right to call it a single tax when land assessment values were fictitious as they were here today. It meant confiscation of property and he believed it would be better for the town to assess improvements.

N. Mussallem opposed improvement tax for the reason that it was not fair to tax the poor man double on his little home in order to make it easy for the speculator who held vacant property.

If there were an improvement tax, the poor man would have to carry the burden as usual, John Cavalier declared.

The resolution whereby all candidates for office at the coming election will be asked to express their stand on the question of improvement tax was moved by Mr. Casey, seconded by Henry Smith and carried unanimously.

It was during the discussion of the improvement tax that T. Ross Mackay referred to the matter of the old Court House block. He felt it most unfair that the government should be allowed to carry this property for years for speculative purposes without paying a cent of taxes at the expense of other taxpayers who stayed with their property and had to pay.

City Lost \$140,000

Mr. Stephens stated that two years ago he had computed that had the government paid taxes and interest on this square since incorporation, the city would have received \$140,000.

Mr. Mackay moved and R. F. Perry seconded the motion asking the city to urge the provincial government either to sell this property or pay the taxes upon it. The motion was passed with enthusiasm.

William Wilson stated that some years ago he had endeavored to get a lease of property to start an industry. He had failed and the same property was still unused and continued to pay no taxes to the city.

The matter of the two year term

for mayor and aldermen came up next for discussion.

If a mayor, after one year, was considered to have done well, there would be little doubt of his re-election, stated R. F. Perry in expressing his opposition to a two-year term. On the other hand, if a mayor, in his first year, was considered unsatisfactory, it would be too long to have to keep him for a second year. Much the same applied to aldermen, Mr. Perry felt. If an alderman had to face an election every year, it would give him incentive to better work and there would not be so much inclination to rest on one's oars until the second year.

Fred Wesch felt a two-year term would give a mayor a wonderful chance to work up a machine. He felt that public interest in the civic elections was a good thing. It was noticeable that, whenever there was no mayoralty contest, little interest was taken in the election.

Ex-Mayor H. B. Rochester declared that, from his experience, he felt a two-year term for mayor would be one of the worst things that could happen to the city. It encouraged the natural tendency to run to seed. As far as the aldermen were concerned, Mr. Rochester felt that the one-year term was more likely to make him show what he could do. He was absolutely opposed to the two year term in either case.

The two-year term, T. Ross Mackay, believed, facilitated the organization of little gangs. The only effective way to call a council to account was by having an annual election for all its members. As for the suggestion which had been made that all four retiring members of the 1930 council be returned by acclamation, Mr. Mackay felt that it would have been a colossal mistake to do this.

Fred Riffou

The annual election, Fred Riffou felt, was a good thing if for nothing else than that it stirred up interest in civic affairs.

G. B. Casey could see no advantage in electing mayor and aldermen for two-year terms. If a mayor and four aldermen were elec-

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THE GREATEST HEAT FOR THE FEWEST DOLLARS



Native Wedding At St. Peter's Church

There was a splendid nuptial party in attendance at St. Peter's Church, Seal Cove, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the occasion being the marriage by Rev. Canon W. F. Rushbrook of Miss Maude D. Shaw, daughter of Matthias Shaw, Anglican lay reader of Kitkatla, and

Mrs. Shaw, to Job N. Tolmie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Tolmie, also of Kitkatla.

The bride, who wore a beautiful wedding dress of white silk with a net overdress and had a bouquet of orange blossoms, carried a train of six bridesmaids. The groom was attended by six groomsmen.

After the ceremony, some 100 guests sat down to a wedding breakfast in the Boston Cafe. A number of speeches were made which were with native wit. Dancing followed. Mr. and Mrs. Tolmie will reside at Kitkatla.



Phillip F. Ray, graduate of University of California, returns to Los Angeles with his wife after creating an entire system of national sports for republic of Guatemala.