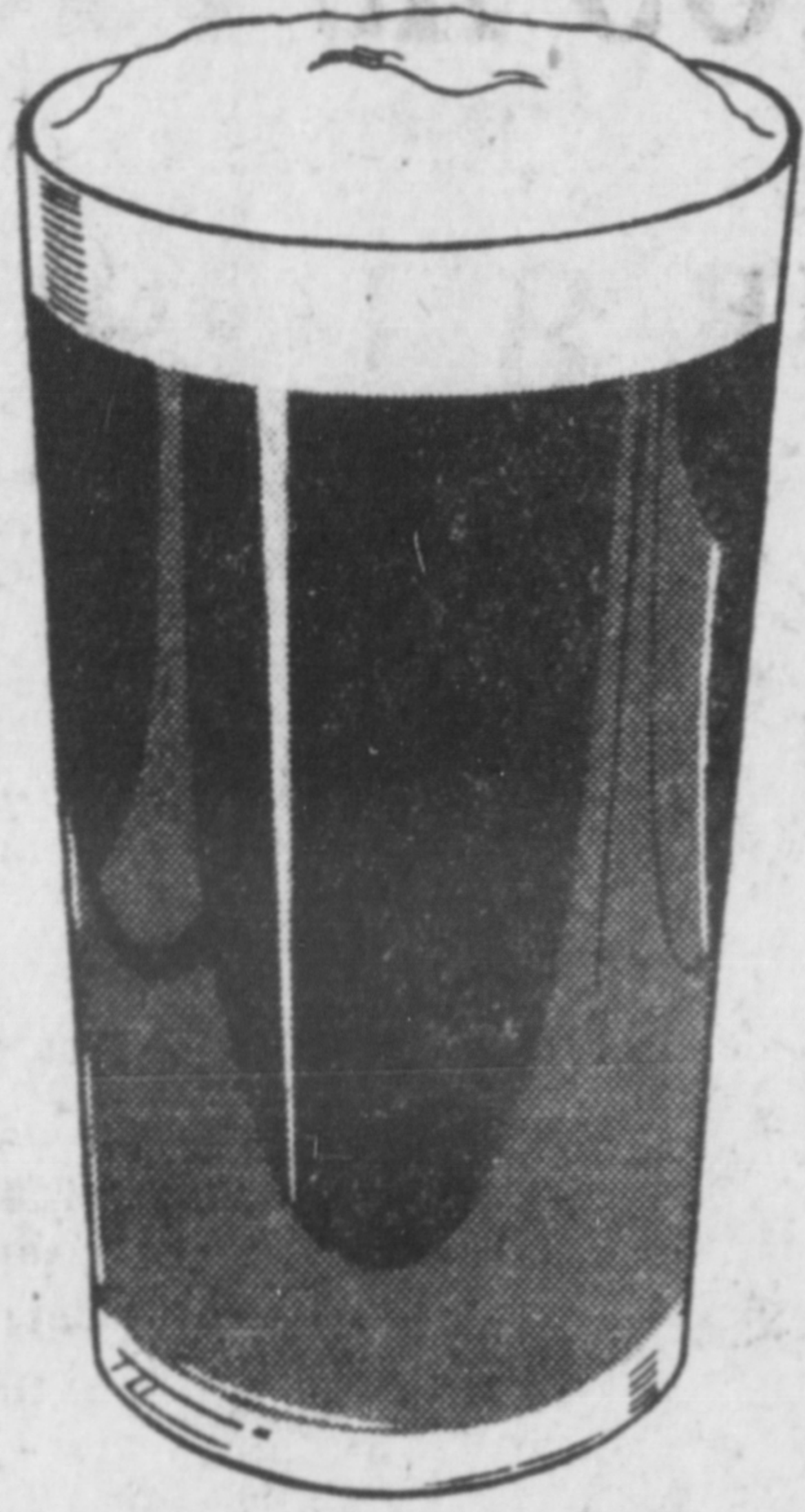


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GATHERING IN CHURCH

Interesting Addresses at Public Meeting Last Night in Connection With Presbytery

Inspiring Speeches

Important Announcement That Local Church is Now Self-Supporting

A public meeting held last night in First United Church in connection with the sessions of Prince Rupert Presbytery, which is now proceeding here, proved of much interest to an audience of good proportions which was in attendance. The principal features of the meeting were an inspiring talk by Rev. W. H. Gibson of Bella Coola on some of his experiences during forty years of missionary work around Rivers Inlet, Bella Coola and Bella Bella, a unique account by Rev. J. Kobayama, Japanese missionary at Ocean Falls of how he came to be converted to Christianity and entered the ministry, and a brief but earnest address by Rev. Charles E. Motte on the importance of foreign missions. Rev. William Deans, Ocean Falls, chairman of Prince Rupert Presbytery, occupied the chair. The church choir was in attendance and rendered an anthem with J. W. Plommer as soloist. A surprise on the musical program was an impromptu duet by Rev. R. C. Scott, Marine Mission, Ocean Falls, and his brother, Archie Scott who are possessed of a pair of fine voices. Mrs. Alfred Wilson presided at the pipe organ playing an opening solo and accompanying the hymns.

Rev. W. H. Gibson read the Scripture Lesson and Capt. Scott led in opening prayer.

The first speaker was Rev. C. E. Motte, Rupert East, convener of foreign missions for the Presbytery. Mr. Motte stressed the importance of this branch of the work. People who scoffed at foreign missions could not believe Christ when he had commanded his disciples to "go out into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Despite great work that had been done by the church in such fields as Africa, Tangola Honan, South and North China, Korea, Japan, Trinidad, etc., these fields were still crying out for more workers. There were opportunities in these countries today such as never before had been offered. There was a big call in China for Christian leadership and political troubles that had ham-

pered the work of late in that country was fast disappearing, the president even having been converted to the Christian faith. In India there was also need of missionary work. In Japan "The Kingdom of God" movement was on foot, there being already 250,000 Christian converts in that land.

Rev. J. Kobayama, Japanese missionary at Ocean Falls, told in an interesting manner of the things that had led up to his becoming a Christian. In school he had known nothing of Christianity but he had been attracted to this religion because of the importance it laid upon character building. In Christian schools, students were friendly with teachers and were treated as their equals. All this had seemed very splendid to him and he had not long been in a Christian college before his whole attitude had been changed. Finally, large'y through the instrumentality of a close friend, he had entered the Christian ministry, taking several charges in Japan before volunteering for service among his countrymen in Canada. Here he and his wife had found many real friends and they had come to learn something of the problems in this land although it was only about two years ago since they had come. There was need for work on behalf of Jesus Christ in this country as well as in others.

Mr. Deans referred briefly to the successful evangelistic work Mr. Kobayama was carrying on at Ocean Falls.

Local Church Progress

Before calling upon Alfred Wilson, Prince Rupert, convener of home missions, Mr. Deans made the important announcement that, during the past year, First United Church here had become self-supporting. This was one of the most inspiring announcements that had been made during the day's meeting of Presbytery Mr. Deans declared.

With merely brief introductory remarks, Mr. Wilson called upon Rev. W. H. Gibson of Bella Bella. After some humorous preliminaries, Mr. Gibson launched upon a very interesting sketch of missionary work among the natives on this part of the coast during the past forty years, punctuating his story with many impressive anecdotes. Contrary to common belief, the Indians of this coast were increasing in population. Whereas there had been 105,000 Indians in the country a few years ago, there were now 108,000. There were decreases in population only in the unmissioned villages, Mr. Gibson asserted.

After referring briefly to the very early missionary work of Father Duncan and Thomas Crosby in these parts, Mr. Gibson told how he himself, with wife and three small children, had come to Rivers Inlet some forty-one years ago. There, in little better than a barn, with wind howling and rain pouring, their fourth child was born one bleak February day.

Mr. Gibson referred to some of the heathenish customs of the Indians when he arrived among them. Happily, these were all gone now. They were as dead among the Christian Indians as among the whites. The Gospel of Jesus Christ had got into their lives and turned them around. The speaker told of how some of the natives such as Charlie Seymour and Moses Knight at Bella Bella, had served the Lord for fifty years and were still staunch members of the church. With their religion had come general progress among the Indians.

After eight years at Rivers Inlet, Mr. Gibson moved his family to Victoria so the children might be schooled. Unfortunately, there was failure to minister to the natives of Rivers Inlet and, without the Gospel, they had fallen ill with disease and not even a baby could live there.

Returning north to be stationed at Bella Bella for fourteen years, Mr. Gibson told of the fine way in which the Indians had developed there with Christianity. Mr. Gibson related further progress among natives of Bella Bella among whom he has ministered these last several years. Incidentally, he paid tribute to the work of the late Dr. R. W. Large and Dr. Darby. So progressive were the Bella Bella Indians, said Mr. Gibson, that they had built forty new homes within

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PRESBYTERY BUSINESS

Many Matters of Interest Were Taken up Yesterday

The United Church Presbytery of Prince Rupert opened yesterday at 1:30 p.m. in the First United Church. Rev. W. Deans of Ocean Falls presided and Rev. T. H. Wright, Hazelton, acted as secretary. The proceedings were opened by devotional worship in which Captain Rev. R. C. Scott and Rev. C. E. Motte took part.

The first business was the presentation of the Home Mission Report by Rev. A. Wilson. The financial situation called for more generous givings by the people, and all the fields were asked to increase their contributions. Rev. E. Baker, Stewart, spoke of the opening of the new work in the Stewart district and the opening of the new church there. He gave a most interesting account of his experiences in reaching outlying camps during the winter.

Captain Scott and Rev. S. V. H. Redman gave an account of the work of the Central Marine Mission and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The Presbytery is proceeding today.

Three years. It had taken only a few months for them to raise the money for and build a fine hall. Mr. Gibson wished all his hearers could only see his church with its fine congregation of three hundred natives.

There were many fine families among the Indians of this coast, asserted Mr. Gibson, and the best of them were quite as up-to-date, accomplished and careful as the whites. It was a treat to be in the homes of many of them.

"Nothing but the Gospel of Jesus Christ has made the difference among these people," declared Mr. Gibson in closing. "They are walking in a Great Light every day."

As the hour was getting late, Capt. Scott excused himself with a few witty remarks and the benediction was then pronounced by Rev. Dr. George A. Wilson of Vancouver, superintendent of missions for British Columbia.

After the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the Ladies' Aid of First United Church in the basement social parlors.

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- Ripe Olives— 22c large tin
- Polk's Grape Fruit—2's 45c 2 for
- Celery—Fresh 25c 2 for
- Malkin's Best Oysters— 45c large, 2 for (Equivalent to Blue Point)
- Malkin's Best Prunes—2's 25c per pkg.
- Malkin's Best Honey—4's 75c per tin

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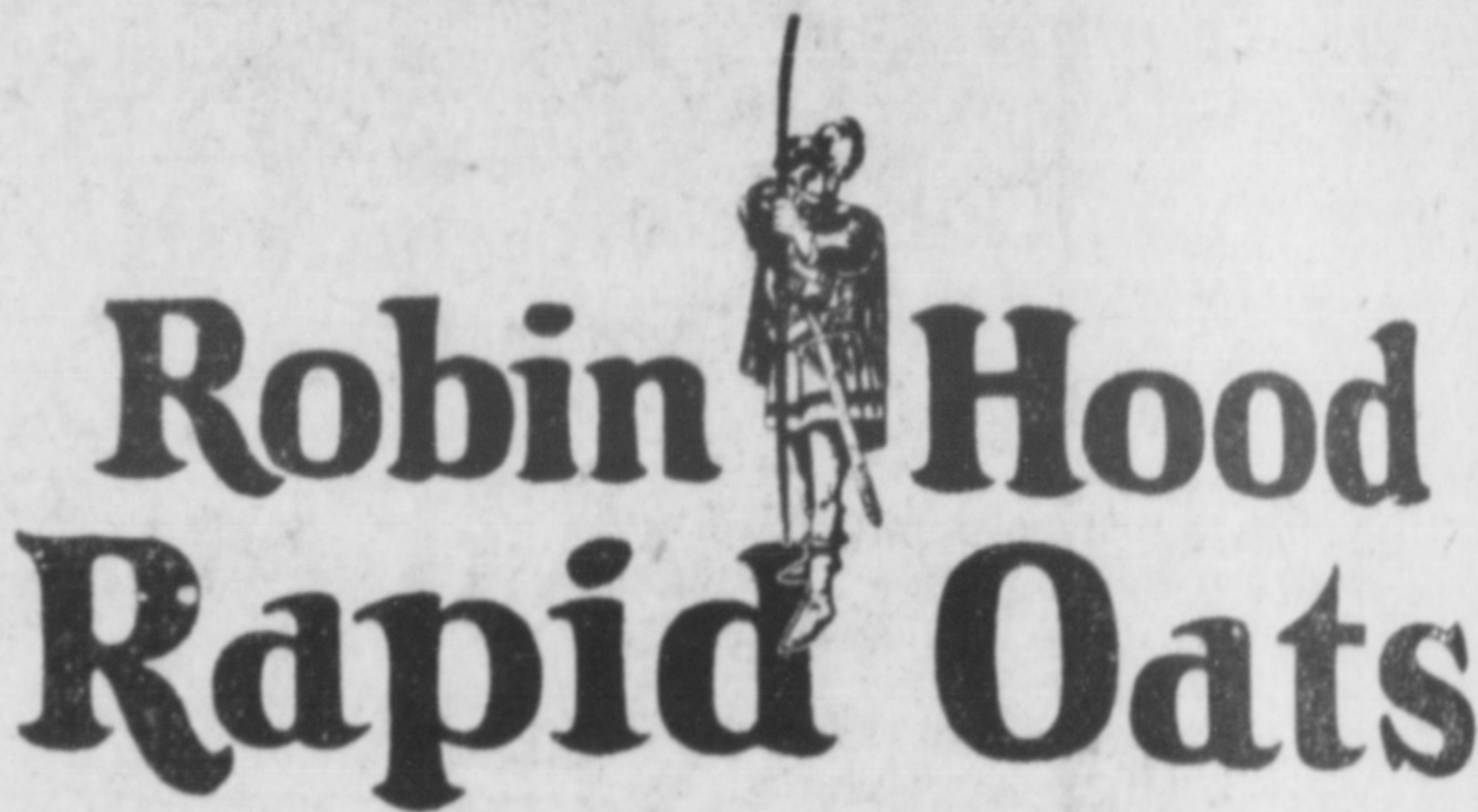


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