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THE DAILY NEWS. PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

Published Every Afternoon, Except Sunday, by Prince Rupert Daily News, Limited, Third Avenue H. F. PULLEN - - - Managing-Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City delivery, by mail or carrier, yearly period, paid in advance 5.00 For lesser periods, paid in advance, per week 10c By mail to all parts of Northern and Central British Columbia,

DAILY EDITION



Wednesday, April 13, 1932

DEFENCE OF TOLMIE GOVERNMENT

Judging from what one hears on the street, practically the whole community must be opposed to the Tolmie Government and yet we do not share a great many of the prejudices against them. They have their good points as well as their bad. The redistribution measure recently passed by the Legislature at the instigation of the government was a pretty good arrangement although the Liberals suffer somewhat from it. They might have suffered a great deal worse if the government had set out to gerrymander the seats as it was reported they were planning to do. While we do not agree that Vancouver should have received another member, we must admit there were arguments for it as well as against.

Another point to be considered in connection with the criticism of any government whether it be federal, provincial or city is that these are extremely difficult times, more difficult than we have had in many years and that no one realized conditions could have been as bad as they are.

Critics remind us that Dr. Tolmie told us he was going to bring prosperity to the province. He would make conditions so good that the boys would not want to leave for other countries when they attained the stature of manhood. Of course that was the exuberance of electioneering. Dr. Tolmie at that time had had no experience as the head of a government and did not realize the difficulties. He seems to have let his followers get away with him temporarily and then found it difficult to get back.

All we ask is that, in criticizing any of the governments, people consider at the same time the very difficult conditions under which they have found themselves.

TAXES IN ADVANCE

The plan of the city council to pay six per cent interest on advance payments of taxes seems like a good one. The city needs the money and it has to pay six per cent to the bank on its loan. If the money is paid in now it relieves the city from borrowing that much. Many people who are getting only three per cent for their money in the savings bank will be quite glad to have it earn six per cent for a brief period by paying their taxes ahead of time.

FEWER CARS USED

As a result of the change in financial conditions the regular increase in the number of motor cars used has been checked and the result shows there are today fewer in use in Canada than there were a year ago. British Columbia shows a slight decrease in the number licensed and so do the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick. Ontario shows an increase and so do Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Saskatchewan shows the greatest drop, there being almost thirty thousand fewer motor vehicles of all kinds in use in the province than there were a year ago. That is largely the result of the drought in the southern section and the low price of wheat.

HOW MUNCIE DID IT

Muncie is a small city in Indiana that was like every other place rather badly hit by the depression. However, the businessmen of the city decided not to accept the condition as inevitable and set out to see what they could do to make an improvement. This is the story as told in the Rotarian, the writer of the article having made a personal investigation.

An analysis showed that much of the local depression was the result of slackness in the building trades. A two thousand dollar fund was raised, all of which was spent in newspaper advertising under the direction of the chamber of commerce, urging the people to take advantage of the present low prices to get their house renovating or building done. The whole community responded with the result that for the \$2,000 expended there was something like \$100,000 released in wages for the unemployed. The newspaper publicity was backed by public speeches to service clubs and other organizations and there was general co-operation to secure the desired results.

NEWS OF THE MINES AROUND PRINCE RUPERT

Further Details of Situation at Premier Mine—Particulars of Liard River Gold Strike—Discoverer of Big Missouri Dies

Further details of the situation at the famous Premier mine in the Portland Canal district, which is now nearing depletion, were given by H. A. Guess, vice-president and managing director, at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Premier Gold Mining Co. Ltd. which was held last week in Vancouver. The report of Mr. Guess did not reveal the plans of the company for the immediate future although he stated that exploration work in the mine during the past year had been "moderately successful." An aggregate of 7898 feet of underground development was done during the past year. Five diamond drill holes from surface and 62 holes underground were drilled in search of new ore. Total earnings for 1931, before deducting administration expense, taxes, depletion and depreciation, were given at \$383,871.35 or a decrease of \$435,090.74 as compared with 1930. Estimated ore reserves in the mine were given as follows: ore broken in stopes, 215,875 tons, averaging 0.28 ounces gold and 8.8 ounces silver. With gold at \$20 per ounce and silver at 25c this represents a gross value of \$7.80 per ton. Assured and probable unbroken ore down to the sixth level of the present workings amounts to 37,748 tons, averaging 0.56 ounces gold and 9.0 ounces silver or a gross value of \$13.45 per ton. Dale L. Pitt, general manager of the company, went down from Premier to Vancouver to attend the meeting.

The Stewart Board of Trade, at a recent meeting, passed a resolution requesting that the forthcoming Imperial economic conference grant no preferential tariffs to metals unless same are mined, smelted and refined within the British Empire. The purpose of the resolution is to encourage the establishment of a smelter on the British Columbia coast. The board also passed a resolution requesting that the matter of monetizing silver on a fixed natural yield ratio be submitted to the Imperial Conference. The resolutions have been forwarded to Hon. H. H. Stevens, minister of trade and commerce. Another resolution passed by the board thanked Dr. Joseph T. Mandy, resident mining engineer, for a splendid series of addresses on mining subjects which was recently held at Stewart. Tribute was paid to the excellent work being done by Dr. Mandy in the district and he was declared to be a real asset to the mining industry of the north.

Development of the mining industry in Atlin district has been retarded for upwards of thirty years by the round-about means of transportation in reaching the district. Much the same condition applies to the Stikine River district. Transportation difficulties of Atlin district would be solved to a great extent with the building of the Alaska-Yukon highway. A horse trail in from Stewart to Telegraph Creek would greatly help the Stikine River country. Cheap transportation is all that both districts need. It is intended to assure great mineral development therein.

Five hundred men are reported to have already left Vancouver this spring to prospect mineral areas of the province, practically all of them being in search for gold. They have scattered to all parts of the province, including the Liard and Ingenika districts, while some will go into the Great Bear Lake district.

Further particulars have been received of the recent gold strike near Wolf Lake in the Liard River country. About the end of January an Indian named Billy Smith arrived at Carcross and with other natives left hurriedly for an unnamed destination. On March 15 they returned and exhibited considerable gold. They called the creek where the discovery was made "Shoo-to-Nook" which means "new life." The Indians also claimed to have discovered some gold-bearing quartz, samples of which have been sent away for assaying.

William Franklin Harris, aged 79, who in 1904 discovered the Big Missouri mine in the Portland Canal district, passed away recently at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. B. McCart, near Port Angeles, Wash. Death was due to heart failure. Mr. Harris had recently suffered a siege of influenza which left him in a weakened condition although he had been gradually improving until a short time before his passing.

IN THE LETTER BOX

DEFENCE OF BARBERS

Editor, Daily News:—

These being days of stress and trial to all who labor and when all are being called upon to account for their action, I deem it advisable to say a word on behalf of the barbers of Prince Rupert, who, at present, are being paraded to the public as modern "highway" men, because of the price governing Union shops in our city. As one barber who has followed the profession during the natural course of my life, briefly, I would like to place the barbers' side of the case before the public.

First, a barber is not a merchant who buys and sells commodities, living on the margin of profit of exchange. A barber is simply a worker who sells his labor or service, as it may be termed, to the public, and in so doing is subject to various items of cost or overhead, such as rent, heat, light, laundry, barber supplies, trade licence and fixtures. And further remember standard or competent barber shops do not deliver their ware in bulk or large volume, as can be done in merchandising establishments. A barber's income is determined solely in the expenditure of time and the service possible to render in the given time a barber is permitted to operate in the course of a legal work day. Time or tide waits for no man and none can give two hour's service in one, though there should be customers waiting to be called "next."

Then again are communities more prosperous where the earning power of the people only provide for a bare subsistence; or are conditions preferable where all people receive a fair exchange for their effort or labor, thereby enabling all

to pay their way and a dollar to spend if desired? The barbers believe the latter to be the better course for communities to adopt. In defence of our schedule of prices the following will give the public some idea of the earning power of present day barbers, both in Prince Rupert or other places along the coast:

In the early days of our city barbers worked 76 hours per week under a guarantee of \$22.50 per week. After the revision barbers were increased to \$30.00 per week. Under present day conditions barbers work 55 hours per week and on percentage basis without any guarantee. So the depression makes its imprint on us as well as others.

Our literary critic, styled as "Citizen," who subsists on a portion of the forty-five million dollar guarantee from the Dominion of Canada annually, I venture to say has more money to spend on his family weekly than any of our modern "highway" barbers have to spend on theirs. Remember, intelligence increases wants; education develops new desires; old wages will not satisfy new wants; the soul longs for harmony without with that within. A soul in a palace is not satisfied for the body to be clothed in rags and patches.

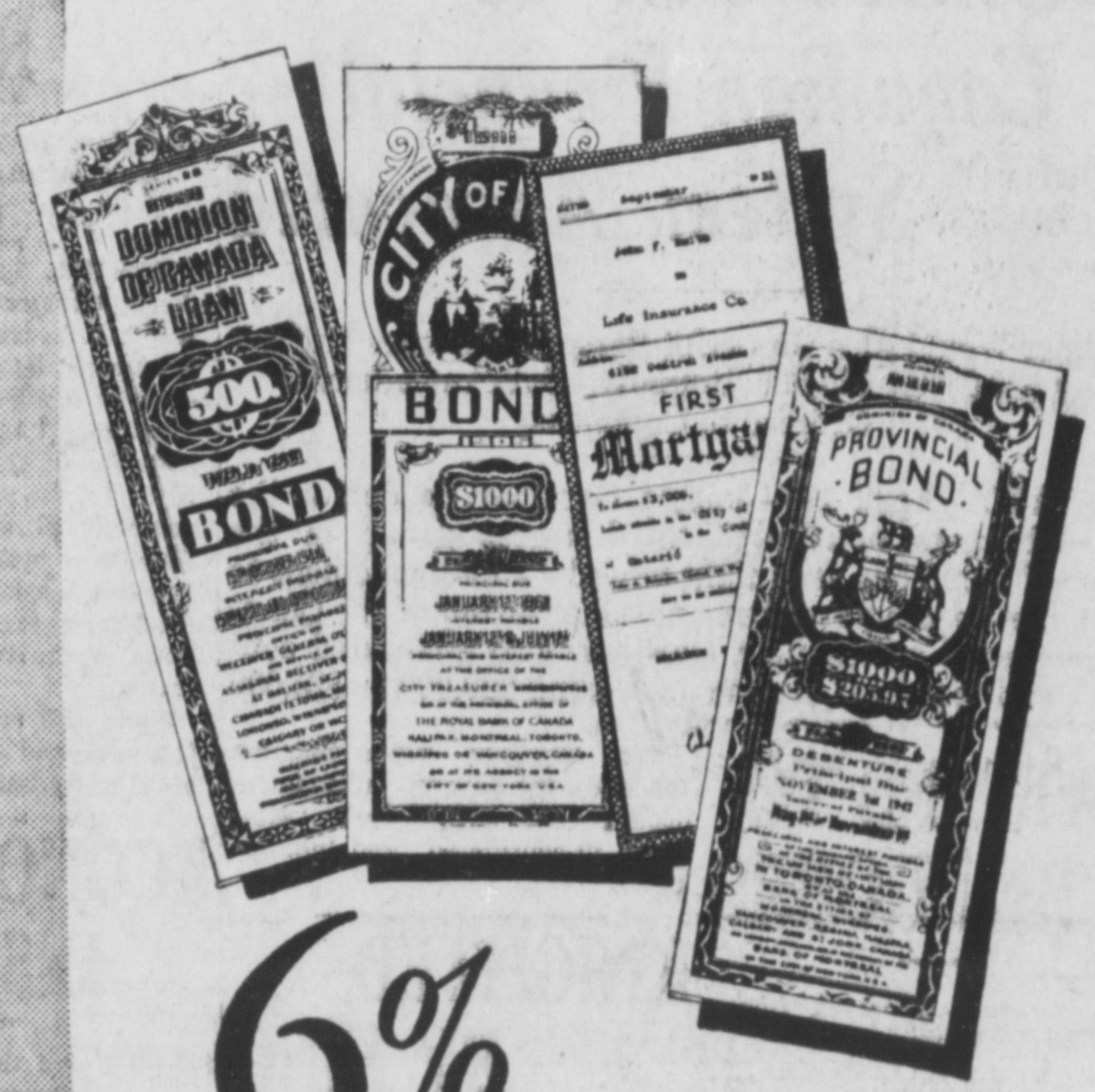
BARBER.

This will close the Daily News discussion in regard to barbers and their work and charges.

—Ed.

R. H. Gurd, accountant of Cassiar cannery, sailed yesterday afternoon on the Catala for a business trip to Vancouver.

OGDEN'S CUT PLUG advertisement featuring a pipe and the slogan 'MORE FRIENDS EVERY DAY!' with a list of friends.



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Life Insurance Service

One of a series of messages sponsored by Life Insurance Companies.



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