

The Daily News

Formerly The Prince Rupert Optimist

Published by the Prince Rupert Publishing Company, Limited
DAILY AND WEEKLY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—DAILY, 50c per month, or \$5.00 per year, in advance.
WEEKLY, \$2.00 per year. OUTSIDE CANADA—Daily, \$8.00 per year; Weekly,
\$2.50 per year, strictly in advance.

TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates
on application.

HEAD OFFICE

Daily News Building, Third Ave., Prince Rupert, B. C. Telephone 98.

BRANCH OFFICES AND AGENCIES

NEW YORK—National Newspaper Bureau, 219 East 23rd St., New York City.
SEATTLE—Puget Sound News Co.

LONDON, ENGLAND—The Clougher Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar
Square.

"The newspaper, with the law, should assume the accused innocent
until proven guilty; should be the friend, not the enemy of the
general public; the defender, not the invader of private life and
the assailant of personal character. It should be, as it were, a
keeper of the public conscience."—Henry Watterson.

DAILY EDITION.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

THE GRAND TRUNK ASSESSMENT

Owing to the near approach of the time when the citizens will
be called upon to vote on the above question to bind the city to an
agreement covering a long period of years, and owing also to the
evident reluctance shown in certain quarters to discuss the question
with the citizens, the Daily News will print a series of editorial articles
dealing with the various aspects of the question.

In so doing, there is no desire to sway the minds of the electors
either for or against the proposed settlement. The aim will be to
state the case fairly, without prejudice, without exaggeration, and
without rhetorical appeal, letting the issues be clearly seen, and allow-
ing the facts to make their own appeal to the individual mind. Our
chief concern is not which way the electors will vote, but that the
electors may know what it is they are voting for or against.

ARTICLE No. 5.—WHY THE WATERFRONT SHOULD NOT BE EXEMPTED

The proposal to reduce the Grand Trunk Pacific's assessment
to a nominal one subject to a fixed payment of \$15,000 a year for a
term of ten years is one vitally connected with the commercial develop-
ment of the city, for the reason that the railway company's land
comprises the whole of the available water-frontage of Prince Rupert,
and this water-frontage is the only place where industries can profitably
locate.

It is a truism that cities and nations live by trade. To be a
trifle more accurate the words production and distribution of com-
modities, should be substituted for the word trade.

Of the two functions of trade, production or distribution, pro-
duction is the more important to build up a community, because it
requires more capital, has more stability, and requires more labor
and more highly skilled labor than does the work of distribution.
Prince Rupert is already a distributing point for the interior. When
the Grand Trunk Pacific is completed it will have a large increase
in its distributing work. It will become a trans-shipment point for
the trade of the East and the West. But this will never make a great
city. Factories, mills, smelters, foundries, engineering works, receiv-
ing raw materials and turning them into useful finished commodities
to be shipped by rail to the East, and by water to the Orient, these
are necessary if a large population is to come to Prince Rupert. It
is by the creation of commodities that wealth is to be created. Not
until a line of mills and factories adorn the waterfront, will there
be any positive proof that Prince Rupert will be more than a trans-
shipment point for the G. T. P. and a distributing point for the interior.

How are we to get that desired line of factories and mills on the
waterfront? By making conditions attractive to capitalists to start
enterprises there. The New England Fish Company already sees a
market for the fish products in the East, and has started work on a
large plant, in readiness for the time when the line is through. But
other companies have not seen the matter in the same light. A sugar
refinery which opened negotiations last fall with a view of locating on
the waterfront was driven away by the railway company's refusal
to sell it a site on the waterfront, or to grant a lease for a longer term
than twenty years. The plant of a sugar refinery is very expensive,
and the capitalists were driven away, not by the assessment problem
but by the refusal of the railway company to grant attractive terms.

What assurance has the city that the railway company will not
during the next five years, when it is very important to the city that
manufacturing plants should be under construction, place prohibitive
terms on their water-frontage, until such time as a large unearned
increment has accrued to the water-frontage and rack-rents can be
exact from manufacturers who must locate here? The only assurance,
the only weapon that the city can employ is to place a sufficient amount
of taxation on the water-frontage, so that it will be more profitable
for the company to sell or lease a portion of it, instead of keeping
the whole in a state of idleness.

Surrounded by timber areas, with a whole city, even to the road-
ways, built of wood, it is a strange anomaly that we should have to
import lumber into the city. There is room here for a large lumber
mill employing a large number of men in permanent employment.
Why are they not here?

Is it not because suitable terms cannot be arranged with
the railway company? And where is the economic compulsion on the
railway company to sell or lease water-frontage to a lumber company,
so long as it can carry its waterfront property at a nominal taxation,
and exact a toll on every stick of lumber brought into the city by
means of wharfage dues.

Instead of maintaining the assessment at \$7,291,000 as before,
the authorities have this year reduced the waterfront assessment
to \$2,813,500. The proposed agreement, shortly to be submitted
to the people means in effect a still further reduction to \$1,000,000.

"There is a lot of capital waiting to come into Prince Rupert,
as soon as the Grand Trunk assessment question is settled," is a state-
ment that has been freely confided about town, during the past few
months. Who originated the piece of information, no one knows.
What ground there is for the confident declaration is not known. But
if capital is waiting until the Grand Trunk assessment question is
settled before coming to Prince Rupert, it is a dead sure thing that
it is waiting to see that the question is settled right. Any kind
of a settlement, a settlement that would tie up the city's finances and
waterfront development, for instance, would not attract capital.

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A GENERAL MEETING OF THE

Prince Rupert

Liberal Association

Will be Held in the McIntyre Hall

Wednesday, June 7

—At 8.30 p.m.—

Hon. Wm. Templeman, Minister of Inland Revenue
and Mines, and Member for the District will
be present, and will speak.

All - Liberals - Invited

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HOLDS THE SHIELD

Punctuality Contest Won by
Miss Johnstone's Class

The Nelson shield, a small silver
shield mounted on oak from the
timbers of Nelson's old flagship,
is being made the subject of a
monthly contest for punctuality
at the Public School.

For the present month the shield
is being held by Miss Marion
Johnstone's class, who won it
last month.

S. O. E. B. S.

The Prince Rupert Lodge, No. 318, Sons of
England, meets the first and third Tuesdays in
each month in the Carpenters Hall, at 8 p.m.
F. V. CLARK, Sec.
P. O. Box 812, Prince Rupert

Road Wanted

After applying in vain to the
contractor on the grading at his
place of business, for a roadway
to his door, James Donohue has
written to the city council about
it. The streets committee will
attend to the matter.

BIG BODY OF GOLD ORE FOUND AT FORT GEORGE

Thirty Claims Have Been Staked in Last Few Days—
Assays Run from \$8 to \$200 Per Ton—One
is Free Milling Ore

Fort George, June 6.—To the
west of Fort George townsite, and
only a mile from its boundary
lies a huge body of free-milling
gold ore, pronounced by an expert
mining man to be the largest body
of ore he has ever seen in British
Columbia.

The first discoverers of the
mineral were A. B. Clarke and
Charles Whitmeyer, who staked
claims on their discovery last fall,
devoting the winter to develop-
ment work. They sent several
samples of the ore to reputable
assayers in the United States and
Canada, receiving assays showing

gold values from \$8 to \$200 ton.

Nearly thirty claims have been
staked on the prospect and the
claim-holders, many of them ex-
perienced in mining matters, have
the utmost confidence in the dis-
covery. A number of those in-
terested will form a group and
prosecute vigorous development
this summer.

The fact of the ore being free-
milling will make the proposition
easily worked, and a large body
of even \$8 ore will mean fortune
to the lucky ones. Reports say
there are millions of tons of the
quartz in sight.

TRAINS RUNNING TO THE PASS

Residents at Tete Jaune Cache
Can Hear the Blasting Going
on.

Fort George, June 6.—Recent
arrivals from the upper Fraser
bring word that trains are now
operating within seventy-five miles
of Tete Jaune Cache. There has
been considerable traffic over this
route during the past winter,
travellers taking advantage of the
company's road to get through
from the end of steel to the head
waters of the Fraser. A couple
of general stores are now doing
business at the Cache and a live
frontier town is springing up.
The roar of the explosives on the
other side of the mountain, where
construction gangs of hundreds
of men are at work, can be plainly
heard at the Cache.

Enquire of Edmonton

Knowing that a producer gas
plant is proposed for Prince Rup-
ert to augment the present steam
driven electric generating plant,
Alderman Douglas mentioned at
Monday night's council that Ed-
monton is troubled with a pro-
ducer plant which owing to un-
suitable coal is a sort of white
elephant. He suggested that Prince
Rupert should get in touch
with Edmonton before investing
in a producer gas plant, and the
suggestion may be acted upon
later.

Wants the Copper Cable

Six and a half cents per pound
has been offered by F. Millosh for
the 2800 lbs. of copper cable or
wire which the city has for sale,
delivery to be taken at the light
plant. The wire is the old stuff
of the B. C. Tie and Timber Co.'s.

Number Please?

Reporting to the city council
the house numbering committee
recommended that the tender of
L. Bullock-Webster be accepted
for the work of numbering the
houses in Prince Rupert at the
price of 20 cents per number. The
recommendation was adopted.

Will Buy Scow

On the recommendation of the
Superintendent of works, and after
careful examination by several of
the councillors the scow offered
the city at a snap price last week
will be purchased. It will do
excellently well for the garbage
dumping according to the new
plan proposed, and is to be fitted
up for this purpose at once.

Light on Light Plant

Messrs. Mather, Yuill & Co.,
have written to the city council
asking to be appointed consulting
engineers in connection with the
proposed improvements on the
light plant. Their letter is being
considered by the light committee.

R. H. Thompson, city engineer
of Seattle, who according to his
own city press came into "a
foreign land" to add a little to
his income by acting as consulting
engineer on the Woodward Water-
works, has sent in his little bill.
It amounts to \$2607.05 including
telegrams and other trifles. En-
gineer Thompson's letter was re-
ceived and filed by the council
Monday night.

NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Says Mayor Manson Regarding
the Prudhomme Case

As Chairman of the Board of
License Commissioners Mayor Man-
son remarked this morning that
he had had no official notification
of the granting of the Prudhomme
License. This being so, he had
nothing to say in reference to the
possibility of the commissioners
appealing the case.

Water Wanted

A water pipe is wanted on
Eighth avenue near Hays Cove
Circle to serve that district. The
matter is being attended to by
the water committee and the pipe
will be placed if in the opinion of
the committee there is sufficient
need for it.

Extension of Leave

On the motion of Alderman
Smith seconded by Alderman Clay-
ton extension of leave for another
fortnight was granted by the city
council to A. W. Agnew who is
up river at present.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWS

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