

The Daily News

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DAILY AND WEEKLY

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DAILY EDITION.



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT

Very clear indeed is the warning of the Davis float accident to all citizens who go pleasure seeking by sea. Here is distinctly a case of an accident which happened through that contempt for risk born of too much familiarity with a simple raft bridge afloat in deep water, reasonably safe if properly used, yet a perfect death trap if overloaded. Strong feeling certainly does exist in the city that this raft bridge used at the Davis wharf to transfer boat users from the shore to the floating boat house was a primitive and peril-fraught affair which should have been abolished long ago. Mr. Davis himself admits that if he had had any assurance from the G. T. P. that his tenure of his temporary location by the grade was at all sure for this season, he would have had a gangway constructed instead of the rope hauled raft. He is sorry he did not now, and profoundly thankful that the Labor Day accident was not a fatal one.

In fairness to Mr. Davis, however, part of the blame must be attached to those who allowed so many people to crowd in the darkness on to a raft which as everybody in Prince Rupert must surely know, does not hold more than five or six people safely, and is designed for only four passengers. To have allowed twelve adults four of whom were women, and two mothers with infants in arms, to throng haphazard on to so frail a craft at nine o'clock at night was almost criminal recklessness. Beyond doubt the men of the picnic party did noble work in saving the women and infants, not to mention the male non-swimmers from death. Yet after all, it was up to those men to save the lives of the women who trusted themselves and their babies to their care. It was up to them ten thousand times the more to save those tender lives because they had allowed such dangerous overcrowding of the raft bridge. If the Davis float raft bridge were such a source of peril, then ought not the users of it to have been even more than usually careful?

NOTES AND COMMENTS

"OO—oo—OO! The cleverness of Me!" crowed Peter Pan when Wendy sewed his shadow on his heels again after he had vainly tried to do the job himself with soap. And somehow at that bit the audience from gallery to stalls always laughed.

The Evening Empire is not nearly such a lovable spirit as Peter Pan—it is almost a pity to place them side by side for an instant—

yet the Empire editorials last night do seem so like poor Peter's vain little "OO—oo—OO" without one spark of the cleverness, that Prince Rupert's goodnatured laugh from stalls to gallery, so to speak, came as a matter of course.

In one editorial—oh, such an editorial!—in which it accuses the Daily News of a "want of proper newspaper etiquette" the Evening Empire prints the following choice verbiage about the News:

"That rascally deceptive warfare has been in vogue with a vengeance ever since through the instrumentality of a runt of a lawyer and a half-witted, impractical and illogical import from the Toronto Globe."

Oh, you etiquette! Shade of a defunct Billingsgate fish merchant! 'The Empire on Newspaper Etiquette' sure is some useful handbook all right!

Last night an Empire editorial accuses the Daily News of a "want of a spirit of fairplay" and "want of a sense of justice." Is there such a wonderful "sense of justice" or "spirit of fairplay" then in the Empire's attack on the Davis float? The float was primitive to be sure. So are many appliances used today in Rupert. No one claims that it was a safe or even a convenient affair. But it had been used with reasonable safety for three years by those who took reasonable care with it, and it was disgracefully overloaded when the Labor Day accident happened. Any but an Empire "sense of justice" and "spirit of fair play" would demand that the blame in this case be equally divided.

In the same issue with an editorial titled "The Knockers" which accuses the Daily News of "disloyalty to the city" the Evening Empire publishes the following:

"Mayor Manson had presented to President Hays a quantity of roots and vegetables grown in Prince Rupert muskeg by Sheriff Shirley and these certainly were most handsome samples. The exhibit included potatoes, turnips, cauliflower, carrots, parsnips, peas and other varieties and furnishes abundant proof of the productiveness of the vegetable mold—which comprises the term muskeg."

It requires but a very fleeting glance through the files of both papers for the past summer and spring to discover which paper did the most to boost Prince Rupert. As a matter of fact the very paragraph just quoted shows the result of the publication by the Daily News on August 10th of the story of Sheriff Shirley's garden. The Daily News happens to know that the Evening Empire was invited also by the Sheriff to look at that garden but did not think it worth even a passing glance. It takes the Daily News after all to discover the stories that really do boost Prince Rupert.

How the Daily News can "still retain that confidence, respect, and influence which is essential to any newspaper wishing to wield an influence in the community" is past the understanding of the Evening Empire according to an editorial published in that persistently prosy old oracle of glum prophecy last night. Daily News readers whose powers of perception are fortunately not limited like those of the poor befuddled but still solemnly verbose old Empire, have no difficulty at all in understanding why the Daily News attracts, encourages, and retains confidence, respect, and influence. The Daily News is bright and readable, brings a smile into the home with it no matter which way the battle or the bylaw business goes, and doesn't go round with a sore head in a sling whining about bad times and an ungrateful community. The Daily News believes in, and boosts Prince Rupert. And the Daily News is not nosing around with feverish and unholy anxiety to discover unsavory aspects of the public life and try to correct them with a sanctimonious air, but would far rather find out and publish the pleasant stories of good things discovered that boost our city in the view of the world outside.

ITEMS OF SPORT

Stringent rules to govern boxing contests in New York state have been adopted and promulgated by the newly organized State Boxing Commission, says the New York Herald. Physical fitness of the participants is to be insisted upon, and betting is to be discouraged, according to the program of the boxing commissioners. The secretary, Charles J. Harvey, declares that the commission will have an official representative present at all contests to see that the rules are lived up to. The commission ruled against decisions being given in professional events.

The new rules, which will go into effect on August 29, as given out by Mr. Harvey, provide that every contestant must be examined within 48 hours before the contest by a physician who has been licensed to practise in the State of New York for not less than five years, and this examiner must certify in writing that the boxer is physically sound and fit to engage in the exhibition. Moreover, the referee must stop the contest when either of the boxers shows marked superiority and no decisions are to be rendered except in amateur tournaments held under the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union.

The contestants must use gloves weighing at least five ounces, which must be handed to the men by the referee and which cannot be twisted or in any way manipulated. No person under eighteen years of age is to be allowed to participate in any boxing contest.

Betting on the outcome is strictly forbidden. The commission has ordered that in at least four places in each licensed hall the following notice must be prominently displayed:

"No betting allowed. Any person making or offering to make a bet is guilty of a misdemeanor (section 1712, Penal Law) and will be immediately ejected."

The sale of intoxicating liquor in the hall or auditorium where contests are held is likewise forbidden during the progress of the contest.

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