Today's Weather
(8 A.M.)

Prince Rupert—Raining, southwest wind, 14 miles per hour; barometer, 29.40; sea rough.

The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

Tomorrow's Tides

High	4:05 a.m.	19.2 ft.
	15:45 p.m.	20.0 ft.
Low	10:00 a.m.	8.0 ft.
	22:26 p.m.	4.1 ft.

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PROVINCIAL LIBRARY VICTORIA

Northern Grain Outlet is Essential

GYROS HEAR HOW GREAT PEACE RIVER COUNTRY IS BEING BADLY NEGLECTED

Service Club Gets Some Cold Facts From Page Rideout In Advocating Prince Rupert as Logical Railway Outlet

Page Rideout, rugged pioneer of the Peace River country, authority on the economic affairs of that district and long the leading champion of the Prince Rupert route as being the logical railway outlet for that vast agricultural empire, was heard in an interesting and practical talk at the regular weekly luncheon of the Prince Rupert Gyro Club yesterday. Mr. Rideout was quite candid in admitting that the Peace River district, of which glowing pictures had been painted for so many years, was slipping because it had no Pacific Coast outlet. The railway link with the coast was the only thing that could save the situation and he appealed to the people of Prince Rupert to get together, organize and put up a real fight. In this connection he bid especially for the support of the younger men as he saw represented before him among the members of the Gyro Club.

Mr. Rideout remarked in opening that he might be a stranger to Prince Rupert but Prince Rupert was not strange to him. He was well informed of the natural advantages of this port and its equipment to handle trade and commerce. He knew that Prince Rupert was closer by two days' sailing time to the Orient than Vancouver. He referred to the awakening of the countries of the Orient which were now in a position to talk world trade in a big way.

The speaker then went on to tell his listeners something about the Peace River district and, in doing so, gave a number of interesting comparisons. The whole of the great province of New Brunswick, with all of its resources, could be dropped into the country on the south side of the Peace River and a bluenose would have a hard time finding it. In the Peace River seven hundred miles of navigable river passed through arable land. This was as great as the distance from Edmonton to Winnipeg. It contained forty-seven million acres of the best wheat producing land. Ontario, with far less area, produced agricultural products to the value of half a billion dollars. The whole wheat production of the prairie provinces, 550,000,000 bushels in a bumper year, came from 22,000,000 acres, less than half the acreage of the Peace River country. Yet this great northern country of vast extent and potentialities was served by a twice-a-week jerkwater railway.

Mr. Rideout revealed his railway outlet plan as being the extension of the present Edmonton-Dunvegan line westward from Finlay Forks to Hazelton, a distance of but 120 miles. This route, in addition to presenting no serious engineering problems, would make an annual grain production of 20,000,000 a year tributary to Prince Rupert and would pass right through the great Omineca mining district which was becoming increasingly important.

Past President W. H. Tobey was in the chair at the luncheon in the absence of the president, Dr. R. G. Large. In thanking Mr. Rideout, he acknowledged the importance of his message and bespoke support for a movement which was of vital interest to Prince Rupert.

The speaker was introduced by Theo Collart. Other guests were W. L. Armstrong of Prince George and Dr. Neal M. Carter.

MADRID IS IN FLAMES

Aerial Bombardment Takes Effect But, Otherwise, Insurgents Make No Headway

MADRID, Dec. 17:—A large section of Madrid was in flames last night as a result of a rain of incendiary bombs which was showered on the capital yesterday. The bombardment was believed to mark the opening of the long threatened new drive of the insurgent forces to finally capture the city.

According to government authorities, the rebels' ground attack was meeting with little more success than previously and, indeed, was being turned back. A drive of rebel tanks in the University City section had failed, it was said, to make any headway. Foreign Fascists and volunteers were declared by the government to form the spearhead of the insurgent infantry attack.

Meantime heavy snow was said to have held up the projected loyalist advance on Burgos, insurgent stronghold and provisional capital of General Francisco Franco.

Pope Pius Is Now Easing Up On His Duties

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 17:—At the insistence of his medical advisers Pope Pius, who suffered another relapse in his illness this week, has agreed to curtail his activities for the time being.

PEACE PACT IS ADOPTED

Twenty-One Nations Come To Unanimous Agreement At Conference in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 17: — Twenty-one American nations represented at the inter-American Peace Conference here yesterday unanimously ratified the United State's plan for co-operation in ensuring peace and security for the nations of America. The plan provides for arbitration of all disputes in the Americas, consultation and neutrality in the event of wars abroad, non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations and the setting up of a court of international law for the New World.

BAR SILVER DROPS

NEW YORK, Dec. 17: (CP)—Bar silver dropped back to 45c per ounce on the New York metal market yesterday and advanced to 45¼c today.

The New King and Queen



The latest pictures of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

CHECKING ON CHIANG

Authenticity of Execution of Chinese Nationalist War Lord Still Being Questioned

Sianfu Terrorized

Head of Rebels Said to Have Fled Following Aerial Demonstration of Government

SHANGHAI, China, Dec. 17: (CP) —A military expedition to rescue Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, Premier of Nationalist China, if alive and to avenge him if dead is reported unofficially to have been voted by the Governing committee of China at Nanking. The goal of the punitive expedition, it was stated, would be Sianfu, stronghold of Marshal Chang Hsueh-Liang, who kidnapped the dictator last week and reportedly broadcast that Kai Shek had been executed along with three other generals. Official circles are unable to state whether Chiang is dead or alive. There is some uncertainty to whether Hsueh-Liang actually did say in his broadcast that Kai Shek had been executed. Efforts are being made to check up on the purported statement.

Fears are expressed in some quarters that an attack upon Sianfu might lead to the slaying of Chiang Kai Shek if he is not already dead. Sharing these fears are Madame Chiang Kai Shek on whose behalf W. L. Donald, Australian newspaperman, who asserts that the dictator has not yet been slain, has left for Sianfu to negotiate for his release.

Reported To Have Fled

There were unconfirmed reports in Shanghai today that Marshal Chang Huseh-Liang, captor of China's dictator, had fled from Sianfu by plane.

Meanwhile, Nanking officials seized hope for an end to China's civil war and the release of Chiang after conferences with Marshal Chang's British advisor, James Elder.

A spokesman said that a messenger was bringing an autographed letter from the imprisoned Chiang

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Hope Abandoned For Lost Plane

Now Pretty Well Conceded That Ship Met Disaster in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Decv. 17: — Hope has been virtually abandoned for the safety of a Western Air Express Boeing twin - motored transport plane with four passengers and crew of three now unreported for over two days on a flight from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Salt Lake City. It is feared that it crashed in the mountains southwest of here.

Fog and snow yesterday made it necessary to abandon the search by air while the continued heavy snowfall, covering the ground to considerable depth, interrupted the ground search in which 700 C.C.C. workers have been engaged. If the plane crashed as feared, the wreckage will probably not be found until next summer.

Argentine Crop Two Hundred And Fifty Millions

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 17:—The Argentine wheat crop for this season is estimated at 249,849,000 bushels.

Pound Sterling And Canadian Dollar On New York Exchange

NEW YORK, Dec. 17:—The British pound sterling closed yesterday at $4.91⅜, up 5/8c. The Canadian dollar was unchanged at ⅛c premium.

START IN JANUARY

VANCOUVER, Dec. 17: (CP)— The Ford Motor Co. will start construction of the new $400,000 assembly plant, plans for which were announced yesterday, in January. It will have a capacity of thirty cars daily.

MONTREAL GOLD PRICE

MONTREAL, Dec. 17:—The Canadian gold price was 2c lower yesterday at $34 71 per fine ounce.

HER DEATH IS TRAGIC

Mrs. Joseph Flood, Former Local Girl, Dies in Vancouver From Gunshot in Breast

Was Despondent

As Miss Margaret Westman Won Popularity Contest Here Many Years Ago

VANCOUVER, Dec. 17: (CP)— Mrs. Margaret Flood, aged 38, wife of Capt. Joseph J. Flood, Canadian government pilot and formerly in the service of Canadian National Steamships, died in her home last evening from a shotgun wound in her left breast. A housemaid, alarmed by the sound of the discharge, said she entered the room in time to see Mrs. Flood slump to the floor with the gun across her body.

The maid said that Mrs. Flood had been despondent although she seemed cheerful a few minutes before the shooting.

The Floods were married in Prince Rupert. Before her marriage Mrs. Flood was Miss Margaret Westman and for a time was employed in a restaurant in the northern city. There are three sons, the oldest being seventeen years of age.

As a girl Mrs. Flood won the title "Queen of the North" in a contest to decide the most beautiful girl in Northern British Columbia and the Yukon.

Retirement Of Townsend Asked

Followers of Pension Plan Would Have Him Relinquish Leadership

LOS ANGELES, Dec 17:—Townsendites, at a meeting here last night, urged the retirement of Dr. Francis E. Townsend as head of the pension plan. The meeting was presided over by Former Senator Frank Arbuckle. The avowed aim was to make the organization "thoroughly democratic and self-governing."

CAMPAIGN TO GET LONG DEFERRED ACTION FROM OTTAWA BEING URGED

Visiting Agricultural Leader and Local Representatives Press Claims at Dinner Meeting—Now is Time To Strike Again

The need of a campaign to bring to the attention of Ottawa and drive home effectively the necessity of a western railway outlet to the Peace River country was emphasized at the civic dinner given for Page Rideout, the Peace River farmer, last night in the Knox Hotel, City Commissioner W. J. Alder presiding. Mr. Rideout was the chief speaker of the evening but he was ably supported by Olof Hanson M.P., who outlined what had already been done both in Parliament and in Prince Rupert to forward the campaign. Other speakers, in addition to the visitor and the member, included Commissioner Alder, W. M. Blackstock, president of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce; C. V. Evitt, past president of the Chamber; Lee Gordon, immediate past president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; Theo Collart, former chairman of the Peace River committee of the Chamber of Commerce; M. P. McCaffery and S. E. Parker.

In welcoming Mr. Rideout as coming from the greatest grain growing section of Canada, Commissioner Alder pointed out that it was proposed to link up this large and fertile area with Prince Rupert which had one of the finest harbors in the world. He did not think there was on the continent another railway terminal at the end of a transcontinental railway with a population of less than fifty thousand people. Yet not one of them had more natural resources in the surrounding country than Prince Rupert. Here was the last great stand of timber outside of Siberia. Here were fish and minerals and there was good farming country. At this dinner beef from the Bulkley Valley had been eaten and bread baked from Peace River flour. He said he had great faith in the future of the city and his only regret was that he would not live long enough to see the great city he felt sure would be here.

Railway Essential

Mr. Rideout said he had made a close study of the railway situation. Peace River people were looking to Prince Rupert as their natural port. On coming here he found there was the harbor and the facilities. The port was two days nearer the Orient than any other.

In the Peace River they had had discouragements, the speaker said. The people had been induced to settle in the country feeling sure there would be a railway and when it was found that the railway would not be built many had trekked out. Sir Henry Thornton had made the statement that when they had ten million bushels of grain to ship he would recommend that the railway be built. Now they had nearly three times that amount but there was no railway to the coast. R. T. Elliott, who had studied the country, recommended that the line to the north of the river be extended westward. He quoted figures to show the long distance grain had to be hauled at present in order to reach the coast, something like 1376 miles whereas Prince Rupert was only 580 miles distant.

Mr. Rideout then went on to tell of the revolt in the Maritimes some years ago as a result of which they were given almost everything they asked. Premier King had promised years ago that the railway would be built as soon as it was humanly possible. He claimed that it was quite possible now and that all that was needed was enough pressure

(Continued on Page Two)

FINANCES ARE GOOD

B. C. Has Million Dollar Surplus —No Default or Repudiation

TORONTO, Dec. 17: (CP)— British Columbia will have a surplus of close to $1,000,000 at the end of the present fiscal year besides having reduced the debenture debt by $5,858,000, Hon. John Hart, British Columbia minister of finance, said here yesterday.

Mr. Hart, on his way west after attending a financial conference in Ottawa, said there would be no default and no repudiation of British Columbia securities. The extent and cost of relief has now been so reduced it is planned to meet at least $1,000,000 relief expenditure next year out of current revenue.

In the past three years industrial payrolls of British Columbia increased by nearly $36,000,000. Tourist business was up $65,000,000 and the production of the four leading industries had advanced from $116,900,000 to $179,435,000 annually, said Mr. Hart.

Estimates For Hawaiian Naval Dry Dock High

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 17:— Secretary of the Navy Swanson is considering two estimates for the construction of the proposed new naval floating dry dock at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The estimates have been submitted by Puget Sound and Mary Island Navy Yards. Both estimates are said to be considered too high.

GERMANS CURIOUS

British Steamer Signalled And Questioned Off Coast of Portugal—Berlin Says "Friendly Greeting"

GIBRALTAR, Dec. 17: (CP) — The British-owned steamship City of Oxford reported on arrival here yesterday that she had been signalled by the German battleship Deutschland off the coast of Portugal. The Deutschland asked the British ship her origin and destination.

Berlin Explains

BERLIN, Dec. 17:—The Foreign Office, in a statement last night, denied that there had been any intention to question the British steamer City of Oxford by the battleship Deutschland. It was only a "friendy greeting" and had evidently been misunderstood by the officers of the British ship.