

Greetings
to
All

FRASER & PAYNE



*It's
Christmas
Time.*

Great is the spirit of
Christmas that brings to
every heart—Peace, Good
Will...and Love towards all
mankind. May you enjoy
the full blessings of
the Yuletide Season.

Lyons Fine Foods Ltd.

THE JOYS of CHRISTMAS



May you enjoy this
Christmas with loads
of good cheer and
happy friendships.

DIBB PRINTING

*Holiday
Greetings*

Here's a good old fashioned wish
For a Yuletide of good cheer,
Followed by good luck and health
Throughout the coming year.

FROSTY & STAFF
at the
LOCKER PLANT



SEASON'S
Greetings

May your Christmas be
sweetened by happiness that will be
prolonged throughout the New Year.

HOWE & McNULTY

Prince Rupert Daily News
Monday, December 24, 1951

Christmas 1908

(By W. J. R.)

IN PRINCE RUPERT

Prince Rupert had a population of 650 on Christmas Day 1908. On the same day a year earlier, there could be found not more than 150. Everyone was an optimist.

"And I'll wager," said a Grand Trunk Pacific official, as he pocketed a newspaper just in from Vancouver, "that before 1910 we will have 6500 here."

Christmas, 43 years ago, was a day of rejoicing, feasting, gift-giving and rosy visions. There was nothing attractive, encouraging or particularly cheering to be seen anywhere. For miles the newly cleared townsite was an expanse of stumps, occasional trees and here and there smouldering debris. The rest was muskeg, with here and there a shack. But there was, in the handful of pioneers, the spirit of confidence, an unshaken certainty of swift growth. Youth, not age, predominated in Prince Rupert then.

Weather, in 1908, was not unlike what it is today. But you couldn't pick up a phone and have a chummy little exchange of opinion or pass along a bit of news. For there was not such a thing as a telephone in town. And when winter twilight came on, darkness followed. It was best, if not an absolute necessity, to carry a flashlight. Good coal oil lamps provided satisfactory indoor illumination. For there were no streets and dazzling signs.

What there was of Prince Rupert was all down by the GIP dock. This consisted of make-shift shops, racks, offices, cottages and meat markets (including game), fire hall, lodging houses, a movie house of sorts, the dwellings of women on the hillside, cafes, post office, banks and board of trade. All told, in fact, about a hundred places of business were prepared to meet the public and co-operate in the celebration of Yuletide.

Almost any hour of the night, the heavy tread of railway workmen and laborers could be heard passing one's door. All this would be the tale of lots and the beginning of a permanent agency in construction would begin.

Practically none of the men had no homes, but this did not

a 70-mile gale roared through the forests and blew a meat market owned by George Morrow clean across the harbor. George, however, recovered his property after accepting the incident along with a few philosophical remarks.

Prince Rupert had 50 children and two school teachers in 1908 and 50 stockings, it may well be believed, were filled to overflowing.

There were four churches—or perhaps it had better be said, four plain little buildings in which congregations gathered—to hear discourses in keeping with the day and share in the singing of familiar music.

On this Christmas, so long ago, orderly conduct was something that could not but be noticed. In fact, months would pass with no crime recorded. There were public houses described as "cider joints" but these could not be regarded as a menace to morals.

In 1908 30 per cent of the first hundred miles of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway out of Prince Rupert had been graded. The dawning of New Year witnessed interest in the new Pacific coast terminal assuming world-wide scope. It was about

this time that its name was chosen. The final choice took the form of a competitor, the winner being a Winnipeg girl.

Christmas 1908 saw a board of trade with a membership of 46, a dozen real estate and brokerage offices, a tent and awning company, four barbers, four lawyers, four tailors, physicians and hundreds of strangers trying to establish themselves.

An enhanced population however, was something the GTP head executive did not encourage, this attitude being maintained until after the sale of lots.


Christmas 1908 saw the last of the era that started Prince Rupert toward normal, conventional life. Those few first years were rugged and intrepid and those who lived through them were the original pioneers. Generally speaking, they looked after themselves and, if they had initiative, so much the better. They were generous, law-abiding, humorous, hard working, and with profound faith in the future. They sent \$850 to the stricken people of Fernie when fire wiped out that city. Soon the mayor of Fernie, Fred Stork, came to Prince Rupert to be this city's first mayor.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

May your Holiday Season be brightened
by friends you care for dearly, and friends
who care for you—and may the pleasure
of these friendships remain with you
all through the coming New Year.

ABEL & ODOWES LTD.
Men's Wear



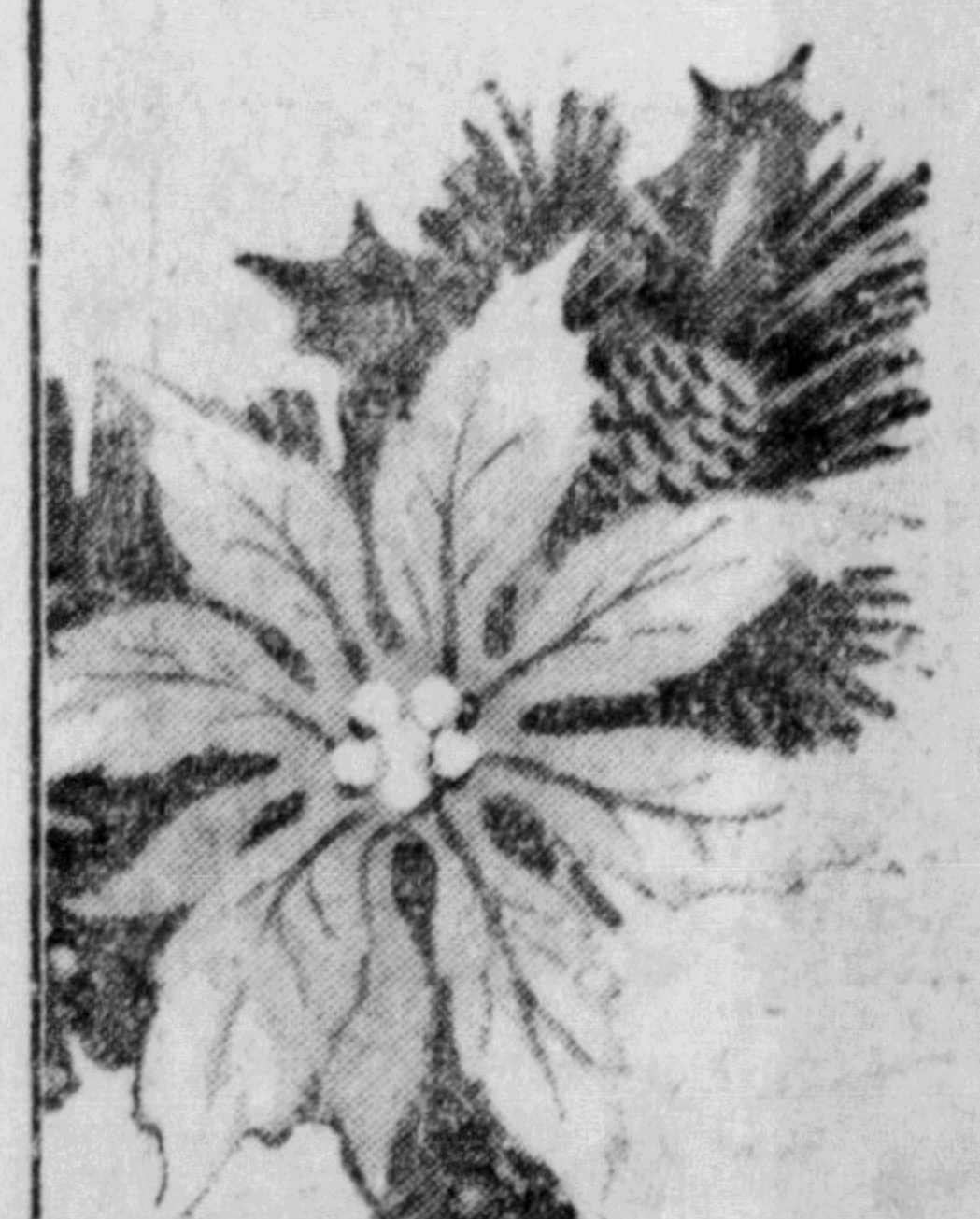

Greetings

We have come to the end of another year of pleasant associations
with those whose confidence and good will we value so highly.

Once more it becomes our pleasure to send our friends
and patrons our heart-felt greetings and to wish them
a Christmas abundant with good cheer...one that will
usher in a New Year of peace, happiness and prosperity.


ALBERT and McCaffery, Limited

Terrace, B.C. Prince Rupert, B.C.


We wish... we
wish... we
wish you all
the joy and
merriment of
the Season.

THOS. McMEekin
& SON LTD.



Season's Greetings

It is our fervent
hope that the
Christmas bells ring
in a season filled
with happiness
and good will for
all our friends.

B.C.
CLOTHIERS
LTD.