

THE DAILY NEWS.

PRINCE RUPERT, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DAILY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1942

EDITORIAL

The Manpower Crisis...

The Canadian government, through a series of orders-in-council to be promulgated within the next few weeks, plans to give effect to the most drastic measures yet imposed for the marshalling of Canadian manpower in a total war effort. The program is extensive and comprehensive. The government has intimated its intention of assuming widespread powers.

The consensus of opinion, as expressed by the press of Canada at a recent conference on the subject of manpower in Ottawa, was that it was high time that such a plan should be put into effect with courage and determination. The day to day war news makes only too evident the urgent necessity for the speeding up of Canada's whole war effort.

The utilization of manpower is not the only major war problem, of course, but it is a highly important one. Canada, like the rest of the fighting democracies, is endeavoring to catch up in months with an organization that the dictatorship enemies have these many years been ruthlessly perfecting. That Canadians must change and sacrifice—and do it immediately—must now be amply abundant to all. The thought that the war can be lost should be a sufficient spur to all.

It is a question now whether persuasive leadership on the part of the government will be enough to meet the situation. In bringing about an effective selective service program, compulsion is implied. Just how far it will be possible to proceed by the method of persuasion with authority to compel evident in the background is most problematical. Certainly the government must be prepared to exercise compulsion as far and as fast as pressing requirements necessitate and there must be no temporizing about the matter. The enemy does not wait. There is much to do in this little disciplined nation of ours and little time in which to do it.

The major policy of national selective service must consist of deliberate control of employment or utilization of manpower. What this may involve for every employer and employee in Canada in the very near future may be imagined. It may mean changes and even discomforts but there is little reason to expect that for the most of Canadians these can long be deferred. Quite possibly we should have been feeling them long ago.

The thoughtful people of Prince Rupert are doubtless in favor of the government taking a courageous stand in the efficient allocation of manpower. Call it regimentation if you will. This newspaper has taken the stand that this must be done if we are to achieve the effort necessary to the successful prosecution of this war. This, we believe, is the view of various citizens—small business men—workers of all kinds, including those in the war industry. The serious ones, we believe, are not only willing but are impatient to have this better utilization of manpower brought about even if it should embody drastic changes in some ways, interfering with the old way of doing things.

Among the working classes, particularly the young, there may have to be a measure of discipline. Due to a ruinous competition for the services of men, there has developed an attitude of independence which may well become dangerous. A condition has developed which among the thoughtless, at least, encourages a spirit of exploitation, a consideration of self interest for the earning of extra dollars—not for saving but for spending.

Conditions here have been made very favorable for a spirit that for some is far removed from any consideration of an honest war effort. In other words they think more of what they can get out of the war rather than what they ought to be doing towards the end of winning it. There appears to be an utter lack of appreciation of the perils and consequences which would be involved in the losing of this war. Consideration of self interest is one of our worst fifth columnists. With some it is the desire to exploit the situation for their own ends. With some it is unwillingness to change. Some just wish to go on having a good time in their own sweet way. With some it is just sheer lethargy. Many utterly fail to appreciate the seriousness of the situation or evade the issue by refusing to even think of it.

There may be a little time for one more great recruiting campaign where every Canadian would be asked point blank if he is pulling his load in the war effort—if his own manpower is doing the best job it is capable of directly in the war effort. There must be immediately a more earnest war effort on the part of Canadians individually, a dropping of the attitude of personal exploitation. The only way of developing that attitude is by bringing about an appreciation of the seriousness of

the situation.

Out here in the west at Prince Rupert a lot of us are very sure that we are really under the gun—the gun of the enemy—and that it may not be so long before it begins shooting at us. Unfortunately, there are others of us who fail—through blind unwillingness—to face up to the seriousness of things. Our attitude has got to change, and that right soon.

The government has the power to put the power of every man and woman in the place it belongs. There is little more time to be lost in persuasion unless such persuasion would be a build-up to a system—of compulsion—a system that Prince Rupert people well know, even if we hate to admit the possibility of—would most certainly be unmercifully thrust upon us should the enemy encroach much further upon our west coast shores.

And, if and when victory comes, some lessons of discipline at this time might the better fit us to face up to the situations and problems which peace with victory would bring.

In this question of utilization of manpower leadership is required and the government is in a position to apply that leadership fairly, efficiently and fearlessly. Prince Rupert people feel that way and would welcome early and definite action. The most of us would like to be good soldiers—in arms or not—but a lot of us don't know how and are just waiting to be asked or told what to do.

Canada's new manpower motto: a place for everybody and everybody in his place.

Letter Box

Editor, Daily News:

As agents for a considerable amount of both residential and commercial property in this town, we are continually subject to claims for smashed plate glass windows. During the last ten months we have settled seven large bills for damage to the windows of the store of Howe and McNulty, one for Fraser and Payne and one for the Grotto Cigar Store. Several of these incidents were accompanied by burglary, entailing considerable loss to the owners of the stores concerned.

This condition is alarming in the extreme, and we feel, like many other taxpayers, that we are entitled to more adequate provision in the policing of the city.

We are informed by the Chief of Police that the police force consists of ten men. These men are entitled to one day a week free,

which by the way they seldom get. This leaves ten men available, or three men on duty during the three eight hour periods of each day. One of these men must be left in charge of the lock-up, and so two only can possibly be on call at any time. Another factor to be taken into consideration is that, in these troublous times, police court is in session almost all day, which further takes up the time of the police officers.

We feel very strongly the need for an increased force. Payment of additional police is, of course, a charge on the taxpayers of the city, but such a charge must be borne if we are to have adequate policing, and will no doubt be borne cheerfully in order to control the lawless elements in our midst. Yours very truly,

H. G. Helgeson Ltd.
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Pilgrims Hear Voice of Bishop From Shrine of Seventh Century

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