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LETTERBOX

FIRE PREVENTION

Editor, Daily News.

This being Fire Prevention Week, a survey of the prevailing fire hazards in our community is both fitting and timely for, as I see it, the picture locally is rather sombre one, one which should compel us to recognize facts as they really are.

Deaths from fire causes in British Columbia are on the increase in spite of all efforts at education and fire prevention. Uusual hazards of war industry are partly responsible but not locally.

Our records show two deaths from fire this year and both were due to human carelessness.

I am well aware that this does not look nice in print but having passed out of control of the person immediately involved, fire intrudes itself upon others lives and properties with a ferocity which becomes more ruthless as it progresses. An intoxicated person with a lighted cigarette hanging from his lips, weaving his way along a street, frequently raises a laugh but it's no laughing matter to the FIREMAN WHO GOES IN TO BRING HIM OUT. I KNOW.

Smokers' carelessness has destroyed far too many home furnishings in Prince Rupert to date this year and strange are some of the stories told in an effort to prove that the cause just couldn't have been a lighted cigarette. In about 50 percent of the cases dealt with by this Department, insurance coverage has sufficed, but even so such reimbursement can scarcely remove the embarrassment to the party concerned. Being a non-smoker, I have never been so involved but that must not be regarded as a virtue. It's not. It's just a streak of stubborness which invariably shows itself whenever I am expected to do something BECAUSE ITS THE THING TO DO.

An increasing menace, too, is improper and overlooaded electric wiring due to attic and basement areas being converted into living quarters. This invariably calls for and added circuit to the system to take care of the added load and should be installed by a qualified electrician. I am well aware that the latter person is very hard to secure but that does not excuse an amateur from stringing live electric wire as though he were merely securing his wife's clothesline to any convenient place he can drive a nail.

No doubt most of us could very well make a survey of our present habitation or place of business and find a bad spot in our electric wiring, a dirty stove pipe, rubbish accumulation, uncleaned paint brushes, oily rags, and numerous other hazards which should and could be removed.

So may I appeal to your readers, Mr. Editor, that they respond to Fire Prevention Week in the Spirit of the Governor General's Royal Proclamation, always remembering that, A FIRE PREVENTED IS A CONFLAGRATION CONTROLLED. Thanking you for your valued co-operation in these matters,

H. T. Lock
Chief of Fire Department.

Q.C.I. LOGGERS' CASE

Editor, Daily News:

The Queen Charlotte Island loggers, members of the International Woodworkers' Association, have asked the government for permission to take a strike vote. These camps are practically completely organized and have been trying for two years to get a signed agreement with the logging operators. So far all attempts to negotiate such an agreement have failed. This is due to the operators' refusal to sign any agreement with the Union. The main point of the agreement as demanded by the Union is recognition of the Union as the collective bargaining agent for the men. There are other points such as wages, hours, etc., which are important to the economic welfare of the workers. The operators not only refuse to recognize the Union but have turned deaf ears to the government's proposal to sign an agreement with the Union. The Federal War Labor Board and the Department of Munitions and Supply have advised the operators by wire to sign the Currie memorandum (which, the Union states, is the least they are prepared to accept), or accept the alternative of a Royal Commission to investigate the industry. During these two years of negotiations not one day has been lost by stoppage of work. Anyone's patience becomes exhausted in time and the job these men have done and continue to do in producing the vital airplane spruce is no small contribution towards victory.

What is the moral of all this? Simply, that the Labor legislation falls far short of the needs of the day and future. Today we are fighting a life and death struggle with the enemy, and organized labor is denied the right to bargain collectively with the employer.

Recently, the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders' Union, Local No. 4, Prince Rupert, passed a resolution which commended the action taken by J. L. Cohen, Labor's representative on the War Labor Board. Mr. Cohen refused to sit on any case involving a dispute until the government had clarified its labor policy. He stated that at times they had to render decisions which were unjust and not in the national interest. Reports of the National War Labor Board enquiry which was held last spring have not yet been published. Mr. Cohen made a separate report as he did not agree with some of the points taken by the Board. As stated, these reports have not been seen since. The most recent development has been the removal of Mr. Cohen from the Board, and the appointment of Mr. Bell. This seems to be the answer of the government as to its labor policy! Labor deserves to receive the rights it demands.

Thanking you for your valuable space,

GEO. NELSON.

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The Variety Store

(This drawing portrays a fictional person and is designed to illustrate espionage methods)

"He's the nicest guy"
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Japanese spies don't speak Japanese. They're not that obvious. Axis agents were planted in Canada many years ago, and have entered into the daily life of communities near naval, army and air establishments and our great war factories.

They are safe from detection just as long as careless citizens provide them with facts contained in idle talk and gossip.

Drive the enemy into the open by making him work for his information. Don't gossip.

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