

Weather

Thursday: cloudy and mild with intermittent rain or drizzle. Windy conditions deteriorating rapidly during afternoon becoming overcast with rain and snow and S. E. gales

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PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1945

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Tides

Table with tide information for Wednesday, February 20, 1945. Columns: Time, High, Low. Values: 8:55, 18.7 feet; 22:15, 16.2 feet; 2:10, 9.8 feet; 15:41, 5.8 feet.

Strong Resistance Given by Germans to Canadian First Army

German Forces Have Gained 15 Miles in Two Weeks' Offensive Killing Nine Thousand Prisoners

PRINCE RUPERT, Feb. 20 (CP)—One sector of the western front is the scene of heavy fighting today. Troops of the Canadian First Army have been closing in from directions on Calcar, a German highway centre 20 miles from the Rhine. The latest dispatch from Paris says that the Nazis have been offering the stiffest kind of resistance. However, five German counter-attacks launched over heated enemy dead failed to budge Canadian army troops battling in the Moyland sector two miles northwest of Calcar.

The final remnants of enemy opposition have just about been cleared from the communications centre of Goch, seven miles southwest of Calcar. Canadian army units now are threatening to enter Germany's industrial Rhur district from the north.

The Canadian First Army has gained seventeen miles since it opened its offensive less than two weeks ago and more than 9,000 enemy prisoners have been taken during that period.

To the south, the American Third Army has blasted out new gains to capture seven more German towns. Third Army troops have succeeded in breaking through the Siegfried Line on a seven-mile sector south of the German base of Bitburg.

British, Canadian and American troops have been escaping lost no time in hiking by train and the nearly 1000 miles from the prison camps to the capital. Plans for a general eastward movement of prisoners liberated from the camps are under way.

Temperature: 44, 33, 1.4 inches to 4

SCHOOL BOARD AND CITY COUNCIL TO MEET SERIOUS SITUATION REGARD TO SCHOOLS IN RUPERT

Steps are being taken by the board of school trustees with the approval of the city council to improve standard of teaching in Prince Rupert schools by raising the salaries of teachers. At the same time a move is to be made towards the financing of a school building program for the city.

Provisioning this line came before the city council last night when the school board in preliminary estimates for the year met with the ready approval of the council.

Specific recommendations of the school board and the increase in the salary of elementary teachers and setting up of a sinking fund involving one mill of taxation per year against a new building program. A motion from Dr. R. G. Large, chairman of the board of school trustees, brought the school board before the council as

NEW RAIL LAW HEAD

MONTREAL, Feb. 20.—R. H. M. Temple K. C., general counsel, has been appointed head of the law department, Canadian National Railways, according to an announcement today by R. C. Vaughan, chairman and president. Mr. Temple succeeds E. E. Fairweather, who recently retired because of ill health. Reginald H. M. Temple K. C., a native of Toronto, was educated at Upper Canada College, Trinity University and Osgoode Hall. After practising law in Toronto he went to South Africa to accept the position of secretary to the minister of mines of the South African government and later became commissioner of the Heidelberg mining district.

Mr. Temple began his railway career in the construction department of the Canadian Northern Railway, serving in the accounting and engineering offices and shortly afterwards was appointed assistant solicitor of the legal department of Canadian Northern. In 1919 he was appointed general solicitor and claims agent of territory from Port Arthur to Winnipeg with headquarters at Winnipeg and four years later became regional counsel of the Canadian National Railways there. He transferred to Montreal in 1926 and became general counsel of the C.N.R. system three years later.

Mr. Temple point out to the council however, that the situation in Prince Rupert is far from satisfactory. We must compete in the open market with such centres as Vancouver and Victoria, and the minister in the south, teaching conditions and surroundings are much less desirable than they are in Prince Rupert. One might counteract the attraction of the southern cities by a higher salary in this area. A survey of the figures shows that the reverse is the

Iwo Jima—Battle Is Fierce One

Thousands of American Marines Trying to Root Out Japs

GUAM, Feb. 20 (CP)—One of the most savage battles of the entire Pacific war now is in progress in Iwo Jima. Thousands of American marines have swarmed ashore on the tiny island which lies just 675 miles from the southern tip of the Japanese mainland. The Japs are well entrenched. Scores of tanks are taking part in the fighting. Tokyo acknowledges that no less than 150 American tanks have been observed in one section of the island.

Decision to form such a commission was made by the city council last night on recommendation of City Engineer G. S. Hanes. The commission will consist of Mayor H. M. Daggett, Ald. Robert McKay, the building inspector, city engineer, fire chief and medical health officer.

BUILDING TO BE GOVERNED

A civic building commission is to be set up here to pass on all applications for building permits. Acting as an advisory board to the building inspector and the city, it will meet at least once a week. Its jurisdiction will be over all matters having to do with building in the city.

When Ald. Elliott inquired at last night's council meeting as to what street repairs the Board of Works might be contemplating this year, the occasion was taken for various suggestions as to what they thought were essential projects. Ald. Elliott had in mind Seventh Avenue approaching Seal Cove and the road between the airport and the railway track leading to the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. plant. Ald. Hills deplored the condition of Westview Bridge which was in the worst shape yet and a virtual suspended lake when it was raining. Ald. Arnold mentioned holes on Ninth Avenue West and Fourth Avenue West. Ald. Rudderham thought that Seventh Avenue and McBride Streets were the worst roads in town. Ald. McKay was glad to see the interest the aldermen were taking in the condition of the roads. He hoped the Board of Works would get financial support when the estimates were being considered. If the money was provided, the work would certainly be done.

In future officers and employees of the city travelling on city business will be allowed \$8 per diem expenses plus return fare, the city council decided last night on recommendation of the finance committee.

F. Kempton received the appointment of assistant telephone superintendent and wiring inspection from the city council last night on recommendation of the utilities committee. Salary will be \$210 per month plus cost of living bonus.

Churchill-Yalta—POST-YALTA PARLEY HELD

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 20.—President Roosevelt conferred with Prime Minister Churchill at Alexandria, Egypt, after the Big Three meeting at Yalta and received another pledge of full British support in the war against Japan after Germany's defeat.

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War News Highlights

Mopping Up in Manila — MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS — Japanese troops on Corregidor and Bataan now are being mopped up. There is some little doubt that enemy forces still entrenched in Manila intend to put up a last ditch stand. The Japanese are deployed inside a walled portion of the Philippines capital and with them are about 7000 civilian hostages. Heavy American guns have been levelled at the last Japanese positions inside Manila. Thick stone walls protecting the enemy defences already have been breached but further bombardment will be necessary before the attacking tanks and infantry can move in.

New German Bullet — ROME — The Germans are using a new type of bullet against Canadian troops in Italy. Canadian Press War correspondent William Boss says it resembles a fragmentation type. It is believed to be fired from an automatic weapon. When the bullet strikes an object, it explodes in a puff of white smoke, and splinters into fine shrapnel.

Russo - Germanic War Approaches Showdown

LOCAL FLIER BALES OUT OVER ENEMY TERRITORY ON HIS LAST TRIP OF TOUR OF OPERATIONS

WITH CANADIANS FLYING IN THE R.A.F., Feb. 20 (CP)—Pilot Officer Jaroslav Bouzek, navigator in a heavy Halifax bomber, took part in an attack of Hanover recently. Unknown to Bouzek, whose home is in Prince Rupert, it was to be his last trip for some time to come. A few minutes after his Halifax had dropped its bombs, another aircraft collided with it in the air over the target area. The port wing as far inboard as the outer engine was torn off Bouzek's aircraft and it went into a steep and uncontrolled dive and several thousands of feet of altitude were lost before the British pilot managed to level off.

The crew were warned they might have to bale out but the skipper managed to keep the aircraft on an even keel while Bouzek feverishly worked out a track that would take them the shortest way back to the friendly territory of Belgium. While the skipper struggled with the limping aircraft, Bouzek continued calling out the position until it was assured that they were over friendly territory and the pilot then gave order to abandon the aircraft.

Bouzek "hit the silk" with the other crew members and all landed safely, and were cared for by Belgian farmers until soldiers took them to an airfield from which they were flown back to England.

It was not until he returned to his squadron that Bouzek learned he had completed the last trip of his tour.

Notes and Views of the City Council

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OBSERVING OF "V" DAY IN CITY

City Council Co-operating With Prince Rupert Ministerial Association

"V" Day will be observed in Prince Rupert on the day that the war in Europe concludes with a service which will be held by the Prince Rupert Ministerial Association on the Post Office grounds if weather is favorable and in the Capitol Theatre if it is wet. The mayor will act as chairman. At the suggestion of Ald. Arnold, the city council decided last night to meet the estimated \$30 cost of a souvenir booklet which will be published by the Prince Rupert Ministerial Association to mark the occasion.

Affairs Smoother—CHURCHILL — LONDON — Prime Minister Churchill said today that affairs abroad are rather smoother as a result of the Big Three conference. It was Mr. Churchill's first appearance in Commons since his return from the meeting.

Bulletins

LOYD GEORGE VERY ILL — LONDON — Baron Lloyd George, 82, is seriously ill at his home in Wales after a relapse following an attack of influenza. "His condition is such that it must cause some anxiety," said a physician's statement today.

SCHOOL IS FIRED — VANCOUVER—The Alexander Mackenzie School was the intended object of incendiaryism last night. A fire was set in the gymnasium and was found smouldering by the janitor this morning. Only the concrete floor saved the building. There were no classes today.

ULTIMATUM REJECTED — LONDON—The Berlin radio said today that the German defenders of Breslau, capital of Silesia, had rejected a Russian ultimatum to surrender.

LEND-LEASE AID — WASHINGTON — Congress was told officially today that lend-lease aid has reached \$35,382,000,000 but its importance in civilian shortages in the United States had been greatly overstated in many false rumors.

CLOSE DOWN AMUSEMENTS — WASHINGTON—The federal government has ordered that, commencing in one week, all places of amusement in the country must close at midnight in order to save coal, transportation and manpower.

MIXING IN H. D.'S — OTTAWA—A defence department spokesman reveals that Home Defence troops overseas are being mixed with active service troops and the Department official says the general service men are receiving the draftees very well. Home Defence troops are not segregated in any way.

CANADIAN AIR LINES — TORONTO—Munitions Minister Howe says TransCanada Air Lines will be engaged in routes across the North Atlantic, in the Pacific and to serve the West Indies after the war. All these routes will be within the basic pattern laid down at the Commonwealth Aviation meetings in Montreal recently.

TO DESTROY WAR GOODS — OTTAWA—It may be necessary to destroy as much as 75 percent of Canada's war goods when peace comes. That is the opinion of E. B. Carsell, head of War Assets Corporation. However, the War Assets Corporation head says, when that body begins its program of destruction, it will proceed in an intelligent manner, and only after exhaustive tests.

GAS RATION UNCHANGED — TORONTO—Gasoline rationing will continue this year at about the same level as at present, Munitions Minister Howe points out that the war still is making a tremendous demand upon the Allied pool of petroleum products.

Dr. Neal Carter Makes Trip East — Dr. N. M. Carter, formerly of Prince Rupert, who is directing the B. C. Industrial and Research Council's research in the preservatives for fishing nets, recently visited fishnet manufacturers in Eastern Canada. Arrangements have been made for Mr. B. Farrar, research chemist for the council, to study their methods first-hand and find out if certain preservatives can be successfully used in treating the nets during the manufacturing stage.

"Storm Will Break Very Soon," Says Berlin, Reds Massing East of Berlin

Sudden Breakthrough Might Spell Disaster For Whole Nazi Defence Structure—Moscow Not Saying Very Much

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The war in eastern Europe may be nearing the showdown stage. To quote the German radio: "The storm will break very soon." According to an enemy broadcast, the Russian High Command continues to pour more and more men into the front lines along the Oder River due east of Berlin. The Russians in that sector are within thirty-two miles of the German capital and a sudden breakthrough on their part might well spell disaster for the enemy's entire defence structure.

Nazi broadcasts claim that German counter-attacks south-east of Berlin have met with some measure of success. The enemy contends that the First Ukraine Army has been forced to give up four German towns. Moscow offers no confirmation to these enemy assertions.

As a matter of fact, the Soviet communists have nothing to say about the fighting in the areas near Berlin. It does not, however, that Russian troops have advanced to within 47 miles of Danzig. There also have been Russian gains in East Prussia and the siege ring around the Silesian capital of Breslau has been tightened.

Fraser Street Tragedy Probed—LACK OF PROTECTION CAUSE OF CHILDREN'S DEATHS, JURY FINDS

Finding that Ronald Fossum and Loraine Hanberg came to their deaths by smoke suffocation at their home at 749 Fraser St. on the night of February 10, a jury under Coroner M. M. Stephens last night officially expressed the opinion that had the mother, Mrs. S. Hanberg, provided ordinary care and protection for the children such a tragedy would not have occurred.

The jury recommended that the evidence heard at the inquest be transmitted to the Attorney General.

Evidence indicated that four-year old Ronald had an attraction for playing with matches and that, while alone with his little sister in the house, he had set the mattress of his crib afire, which climbed into his sister's bed where both perished as the room filled with smoke.

Mrs. Hanberg had left the children in bed when she left the house about 8 o'clock to go to a beer parlor in company with Mrs. Verna Ratchford, evidence revealed.

After the beer parlor closed, shortly before 11 o'clock, Mrs. Hanberg, Mrs. Ratchford, Frank Montesano, and a soldier known only as "Benny" had gone to the Ratchford residence next door to the Hanberg home to have coffee at the invitation of Mrs. Ratchford.

Shortly after arriving at the Ratchford residence Mrs. Hanberg had sent Frank Montesano to her house to "see if the back door was closed." Montesano discovered the dead children in the smoke-filled bedroom.

Dr. J. J. Gibson, who said that he arrived at the scene almost immediately after being called at 11:45 p.m., told the jury that in his opinion the children had been dead somewhat over an hour when he inspected the bodies.

Agitated Mother Gives Evidence — Mrs. Hanberg, a young blonde woman, appeared highly agitated while giving testimony and occasionally wept. Her husband, who had been out fishing when the tragedy occurred, sat in the rear of the court room. She denied that she had done

(Continued on page 2)

RIFFLE ROCK REMOVED — VANCOUVER—An additional \$100,000 is to be requested from the federal government for the removal of Riffle Rock in Seymour Narrows.

Mr. Temple point out to the council however, that the situation in Prince Rupert is far from satisfactory. We must compete in the open market with such centres as Vancouver and Victoria, and the minister in the south, teaching conditions and surroundings are much less desirable than they are in Prince Rupert. One might counteract the attraction of the southern cities by a higher salary in this area. A survey of the figures shows that the reverse is the