

Published every afternoon except Sunday by Prince Rupert Daily News Limited, Third Avenue, Prince Rupert, British Columbia.
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
By City Carrier, per week 15
Per Month 65
Per Year \$7.00
By Mail, per month 40
Per Year \$4.00

MEMBER
A.B.C.

End of European War Near . . .

There can be little doubt now that the war as far as Germany is concerned is nearly over. The Allies have made their greatest crossing of the Rhine. Enemy resistance even in his homeland is crumbling everywhere. Many strong defences have already been passed. The resumption of the great Russian offensive from the east is under way or about to start. The noose is tightening on the Reich from all sides. There is every indication now that the issue will be settled within the course of the next few weeks with victory for our side. Discounting any tendency to wishful thinking, this appears all but a certainty. The end of the European phase of the war may come any day now, possibly with dramatic suddenness.

Efficiency and Fatigue . . .

The arch-enemy of efficiency is fatigue, says Professor William James, eminent psychologist. It is not how much work you do that tires you but

how you work. You can do more and better work by keeping yourself from getting tired and one way of keeping from getting tired is working rhythmically. Relaxation to prevent fatigue is quite as important for the mental and sedentary worker as it is for the person engaged in manual labor.

Speaking of France . . .

Regardless of how we feel about French, all men have a special feeling for France. The Germans, so long envious of her in spite of their professed contempt, share this feeling.

To many, France is as much a song as she is a country. Her years of darkness cannot hide her light. Her vices, which include her politics, are only the dark flowers she has developed because of being over-civilized. They are the price she has had to pay for her high virtues, and for the delight and drama of her contrasts.

To some of us, France is both Voltaire and Mistinguette, Proust and her peasant Joan, Robespierre and Rabelais. She is a Jacobin wearing a faded court dress. She is at once the tarnished gilt of her old palaces, and the liberty she has bled for her barricades. She is as famous for her bourgeois, the sharpness of her shopkeepers, the liquid precision of her language, the stained glass in her churches, the loveliness of her boulevards, and the unreality of her governments during the tragic years of the hiatus.

Letters to the Editor

CITIZENSHIP AND RELIGION

Editor, Daily News:
I do not desire the publicity involved in writing this letter but perhaps it is peculiarly my duty to reply to a letter in Friday's issue of the News signed E. W. Abraham.

Colonel H. E. Lyon speaks of the racial intolerance campaign which is sweeping like a plague through British Columbia. Mr. Abraham's suggestion would only increase the virulence of this plague by adding theological rancor to the primitive, indiscriminating bitterness of race hatred.

Rights of citizenship should stand independent of racial origin. Some exception to this may have been necessary as a war precaution. But once the war is over, every Canadian citizen should be treated as a Canadian citizen whether his ancestors were British, American, Russian, Chinese, German, Italian, or Japanese.

In like manner rights of citizenship should stand independent of religious belief. Every Canadian citizen should be treated as a Canadian citizen whether he be Christian, Mohammedan, Confucian, Buddhist, Shintoist, or atheist. Against all racial or religious discrimination let us set our faces like a flint. Adolf Hitler declared that the only good Jew was a dead one. A Prince Rupert alderman is reported to have said that the only good Jap is a dead one. It is the same spirit. We are fighting against it in Germany. We can only foster it in British Columbia at our peril. God deliver us from both racial and religious (or theological) hatred.

J. A. DONNELL.

HIGH SCHOOL SITUATION

Editor, Daily News:
I should like space in which to amplify the published report on what happened at the Parent-Teachers' Association meeting last Wednesday. It would appear from the report that W. W. C. O'Neill, principal of the Booth Memorial High School, was responsible for the resolution. This is not the case.

The resolution was moved by J. S. Wilson, readily seconded and carried unanimously at one of the best attended meetings of the association. It was on the request of the chairman that Mr. O'Neill gave particulars as to what it meant for a school to be accredited and under what circumstances it might be removed from the list. Mr. O'Neill pointed out that the number of credits offered here was greatly in excess of the number required by the department while the winning of the scholarships by former students proved that their schooling here had provided a good foundation.

In moving the resolution, Mr. Wilson said that, as a result of years of familiarity with education matters, twenty of them in the city, he felt he could speak with some authority. He recalled the protest made at the time when Booth Memorial was converted into a Senior-Junior High School. The change, he said, was made on the recommendation of one inspector. However, the school had not been placed on the accredited list then, but later, and on the recommendation of another inspector.

Mr. Wilson referred to the report of the interview given by Inspector Thorsteinsson. He said that the alleged reasons given in that report did not warrant the inspector's recommendation to the department that the Booth School be removed from the list of accredited high schools. He felt that the reference to teachers coming from other provinces was unfair. These teachers had been granted certificates by the B. C. Department of Education and, therefore, they must be qualified. He felt that such an attitude on the part of an inspector did not tend to build up unity among the provinces of Canada, morale among the local staff, or respect of the pupils for their teachers. The specific adverse criticism of one teacher was most unethical. He could not see how such action as recommended by the inspector could be considered educationally progressive. He could not see who would benefit but he did feel that the children would suffer. He also felt very strongly that this making of this report when two-thirds of the school year has passed ignored completely the rights of the pupils, and their parents. These were surely entitled to be advised in time as to how their year's work would be evaluated.

In the course of later discussion those present at the meeting were amazed that the matter had not been discussed with the principal before the recommendation had been made to the department. The sad lack of playground space was recognized by all but the inspector's suggestion that the rocky ridges at the back of the school be made into a rock garden did not seem a solution to the problem and evidently did not get the slightest support from the parents.

I feel that in these abnormal times the very heavy burdens under which teachers are working should not further be increased by the action recommended by the inspector. SELF.

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Protect the benefit rights of your employees by sending in their expired books properly completed on March 31st.

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