

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and all communities comprising northern and central British Columbia. (Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa) Published every afternoon except Sunday by Prince Rupert Daily News Ltd., 3rd Avenue, Prince Rupert, British Columbia. G. A. HUNTER, Managing Editor. H. G. PERRY, Managing Director.

Up Shamrock's! St. Pat's Day

LEP prechauns and keening banshees lament from Killarney's lakes to Donegal's green hills—there'll be no such sorrowing by sons of the Ould Sod come Monday mornin'—for it brings another St. Patrick's Day, the 1,486th to be sure.

Although 'tis said the fairies wept and the little men of the hedges dampened the very peat with their grief when the sainted figure died, sons of Erin from time immemorial have greeted March 17 with gaily, parades, clambakes—and a merry "best to yez" swished down with potable potheen.

And many the black thorn shillelagh has been aimed at the noggins of cynics who dare impugn that St. Patrick was a creature of Celtic myth and fancy.

True, the Welsh, French and Scots all claim him as a native son. The canny Scots are loudest in their claims. They say he was born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, and was named Patricius Magonus Sucatus Calpurnius which any gossoon can see bespeaks Roman ancestry.

Then there are those who, by your leave, prattle that as a Welsh boy of 16, the saint was captured by Irish rovers and brought to Ireland where he learned the language. Later, it is claimed, he fled the land to return about 432 as a missionary representative of Pope Celestine.

That he was a wondrous man with words is told in ancient Eire lore. While preaching to Druid pagans at Tara, chronicles relate, he immortalized the shamrock when he held one up to dramatize the dogma of the Trinity and show the feasibility of three in one and one in three.

Of course, more critical researchers suggest that the shamrock was linked with the saint's ability to banish snakes and toads from out of the emerald acres. Historian Pliny thought the trefoll—a kin-neighbor of the Irish emblem—had protective powers against the sting of snakes and scorpions.

Then there are those who question the choice of March 17 as St. Patrick's death day. Well, it seems to have come about something like this:

Sometime after his death at Abbey Saul in County DoDown, Irishmen split on choice of an anniversary day.

A typically Hibernian compromise was made by one Father Mulcahey. After waiting until the lads had tamped down the rich brown twist in their clays, he assumed a Solomon's air and ruled that he would take both debated days—March 9 and 8—add them together. Faith, and so March 17 was chosen.

And, as though the anti-myth folk hadn't done enough mischief, the boys received a rude shaking in recent times when it was said that the good saint's shamrock was named after the Arabic "Shamrakh"—held sacred in Iran as an emblem of the Persian Triads.

Put that shillelagh down! And a happy St. Patrick's Day to yez all!

TRUMAN'S PRESTIGE

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has risen a good deal in stature and prestige since some of the ineptides following closely upon his accession to the Rooseveltian mantle. His dealing with John L. Lewis and the coal miners' strike situation seemed to mark a turning point to his credit. His message to Congress Wednesday asking for aid in the extent of \$400,000,000 to Greece and Turkey to save them from defaulting to communistic domination was a momentous and courageous document, no matter whether or not one may agree with its burden.

There had been those who expected Truman and the Democratic party, in administration, might go completely down under the Republican legislative control—that the off-year election results in United States would spell final eclipse for them. But, oddly enough, the reaction seems to have been in exactly the opposite direction. Truman is turning out to be a bigger man than most people had thought him.

WHAT WE CAN DO

WHEN NEW INDUSTRIES come to a place usually some concessions are asked from the community but the new celanese pulp mill project for Port Edward which has been announced appears to involve nothing like that. However, there are things that we can and will be able to do to assist the project. In addition to adjusting business to take care of the new demands, accommodation will have to be provided for the new population.

Possibly one of the things that we could do at once will be to see if improvement cannot be made on the highway connecting Prince Rupert and Port Edward. The magnitude of the undertaking being established at Port Edward and the volume of traffic developing from the commuting and delivery of supplies from here will necessarily make a good road a necessity. British Columbia's newest industry, and, incidentally, one of its very largest, is entitled to a first class hard surfaced road to connect it with its centre of business and residence. It might not be too early right now to request that this be done.

Waterfront Whiffs

Pioneer Waterfront Industry Renewed—Some Anecdotes of Early Days—Fishing at Prudhomme Lake

One of Prince Rupert's oldest industries—interrupted by the war—was resumed on the waterfront this week when Bacon Fisheries re-kindled the oak fires to put the final flavor touch to their smoked fish products which first went on the market here in 1908.

The smoke house went into production recently on the same site as the company's former one although it is now occupying a building built and used by the Royal Canadian Navy during the last conflict. To proprietor Jim Bacon it is a return to normalcy after an interruption of seven years. That condition described as "normalcy" had its foundation laid before Prince Rupert was incorporated.

Mr. Bacon is proud of the fact that his business is as old as Prince Rupert's fishing industry itself, recalling that it was started by himself and the late William Shrusall in 1908 when Prince Rupert was largely a community of tents served by narrow plank sidewalks which bridged gaps in the extremely damp muskeg.

"Our original smokehouse was about 100 yards from its present site," he recalls. "At the foot of McBride Street, where we are located at present, G. W. Morrow had an abattoir where he slaughtered cattle for local use."

In those early days, boats, which incidentally lacked modern fishing gear, could go out in the harbor and catch four or five tons of halibut in a few hours—which they sold to local buyers for two cents a pound. Freezing and shipping facilities were unavailable then.

"Natives used to bring spring salmon down from Port Simpson in canoes, using sails and paddles, and sell them for 25 cents each," Mr. Bacon reminisced. "What ice we had was brought from Wallace Bros. cannery at Claxton."

About that time, Mr. Bacon opened a small fish market up town—across Third Avenue from the late John Houston's budding newspaper office—where, in addition to fish, he sold venison as well as wild ducks and geese. The latter were sold until game regulations were instituted which put a stop to the commercial sale of game meat.

Mr. Bacon also claims the historic distinction of starting the first transfer business in Prince Rupert—using a wheelbarrow as equipment.

"It later bought a pony—also Prince Rupert's first—and hitched it to a small trolley which it pulled along the narrow sidewalks," he chuckled.

Bacon Fisheries first began to produce its "B" brand of smoked fish products on its present site in 1912 when the government wharf was first built. It continued the operation until 1940 when the Royal Canadian Navy took over the wharf facilities at the westerly end of the dock in 1940—including the smokehouse, which was demolished. Its products were distributed widely in Canada and the United States. Billy Bacon is in charge of the present plant.

Completion of the railway in Prince Rupert in 1914 was followed almost immediately by the establishment of the waterfront Fish Exchange, a mart wherein buyers bid for the products of the sea which have been brought

spite of the fact that we have stocked the lake with more than 2,500,000 fry at different times." Rainbow Lake, however, is a different matter. Removal of the present logging dam at the outlet of that lake would improve the fishing there greatly. It would lower the water level about six feet, and reveal sand beaches along the shore, hidden since the dam was put in. The fishing then would fulfill any man's dream.

Relieving the Cassiar, which has been withdrawn from service in Vancouver for annual overhaul, Union steamer Cardena, Capt. Lorne Godfrey, arrived in port at 2:45 yesterday afternoon from Vancouver via the south end of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Sailing at midnight for Massett Inlet points, the Cardena will be back here tomorrow morning to sail at midnight Sunday on her return south via the south end of the Islands.

Third liner of the Union Steamship Co.'s coastal fleet to be in port within 12 hours, the steamer Catala, Capt. Ernest Sheppard, arrived at 5 o'clock this morning from Vancouver via Bella Coola and other coastal points and sailed at 7 a.m. on her return south. The Catala followed the Camosun, Capt. Alex McLennan, which arrived at 3 p.m. from Vancouver and Ocean Falls, sailing at midnight for Ketchikan, and the Cardena, which arrived at 2:45 yesterday afternoon and sailed at midnight for Massett Inlet points.

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IMMIGRATION QUIZ IS HELD

Was Interesting Feature of Queen Mary Chapter, I.O.D.E. Meeting

Feature of the regular monthly meeting of Queen Mary chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, held at the home of Mrs. J. R. Carr, 925 Borden Street, was an exceptionally interesting quiz contest on immigration which was conducted by Mrs. G. R. S. Blackaby, proving both interesting and instructive.

Mrs. Blackaby was appointed delegate to the provincial I.O.D.E. convention to be held in Vancouver April 14.

One new member, Mrs. Denison, was presented with her pin and three others—Miss Lillian Barton, Mrs. George Howe and Mrs. D. Grey—were elected to membership.

The usual \$10 monthly grant to the Civic Centre was passed and a vote of \$20 was made to Borden Street School as well as two subscriptions to Terrace schools.

Plans were completed for the daffodil tea to be held Easter Monday at the home of Mrs. A. T. Parkin, 855 Borden Street.

Following the business session, Mrs. Carr served delicious refreshments.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. E. Brechin, 404 Eighth Avenue East, April 8.

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