

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and northern and central British Columbia. Published every afternoon except Sunday by Prince Rupert Daily News Ltd., 3rd Avenue, Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

Important Services

CANADIAN Maritime Commission, at a hearing to be held in Ottawa on March 1, will consider, among other things, a subsidy contract to Union Steamships Limited, for passengers and freight service to northern British Columbia coast ports and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

A little over two years ago Union Steamships Limited, operating to these northern ports and the Queen Charlottes, precipitated some consternation here in Prince Rupert when it intimated that financial considerations made it necessary to impose a drastic cutting off in services. The Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce immediately went into action and appealed vigorously to the company against such a move. As a result, the services were retained and later certain changes were made in the interests of more efficiency and economy on certain runs. Notable among these was the elimination of the former long run direct from Vancouver to the Queen Charlotte Islands and the attaching of that service to the end of a direct service between Vancouver and Prince Rupert, this making a direct run to and from Prince Rupert to the naturally tributary Islands.

Continuation of the service to the Islands as well as to such ports to the north as Alice Arm, Stewart, Port Simpson depends upon the favorable consideration by the Canadian Maritime Commission to the applications for subsidy contracts. In the new era of development which is opening up for this part of British Columbia and Canada, the importance of preservation of such services is apparent and no place more than right here in Prince Rupert. Industries are now expanding in all directions from Prince Rupert and it is hoped, of course, that they will soon be of such volume that they will sustain such services as these without necessity of subsidy. The situation today, however, seems to be that the services still require nurturing—not only in the local but the national interest.

HYDROGEN BOMB

HYDROGEN BOMB will not be a usable weapon in the U.S. arsenal for quite a while, if ever, says Christian Science Monitor. Right now, even if an H-bomb existed it would be like having an arrow before anyone invented a bow. Task of converting the known-theory of the H-bomb into a usable weapon begins with making the bomb. But just as important is devising ways for using it. Thus H-bomb project involves probably more money in devising and perfecting possible carriers than in building bomb itself.

One example of magnitude and complexity of project is the fact that the plane which drops such a bomb must be at least 100 miles away, preferably 200 to 300, at the time of explosion if it is to escape safely. Alternative is a drone plane or guided missile. But with modern radar development it's questionable whether it would be possible to maintain control over either a drone or guided missile under combat conditions.

Thus the load of the H-bomb project on American economy will be far greater than the actual cost of developing the bomb. Technical experts, resources and money must be concentrated at all phases of project. One concern is that the project will require so much, progress will have to be halted in many other fields.

Best opinion available in Washington is that it would be disastrous for public opinion to see in H-bomb a cheap substitute for friends and allies or for conventional arms. If U.S. got the bomb first and alone, it still could be just a useless white elephant due to developments in defensive technique.

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Ray Reflects . . . and Reminisces

As long ago as thirty six years as many as a thousand ballots were cast in a Prince Rupert municipal election. That there was live interest in the outcome had certainly been foreseen. The chief factor was private ownership of utilities. This was defeated and for about fifteen years the city was served on the public ownership basis. Sale to the Power Corporation of Canada followed.

The election in January, 1914, saw the commencement of an age, the profound significance of which no one suspected. The end of 1913 saw also the end of a way of life that has long since vanished. No one could foresee two wars of terrifying scope and appalling destruction, or picture ten years of unheard of depression and destitution. And these were but a few of the changes destined to come, as Duff Pattullo and Sam Newton campaigned for the mayoralty.

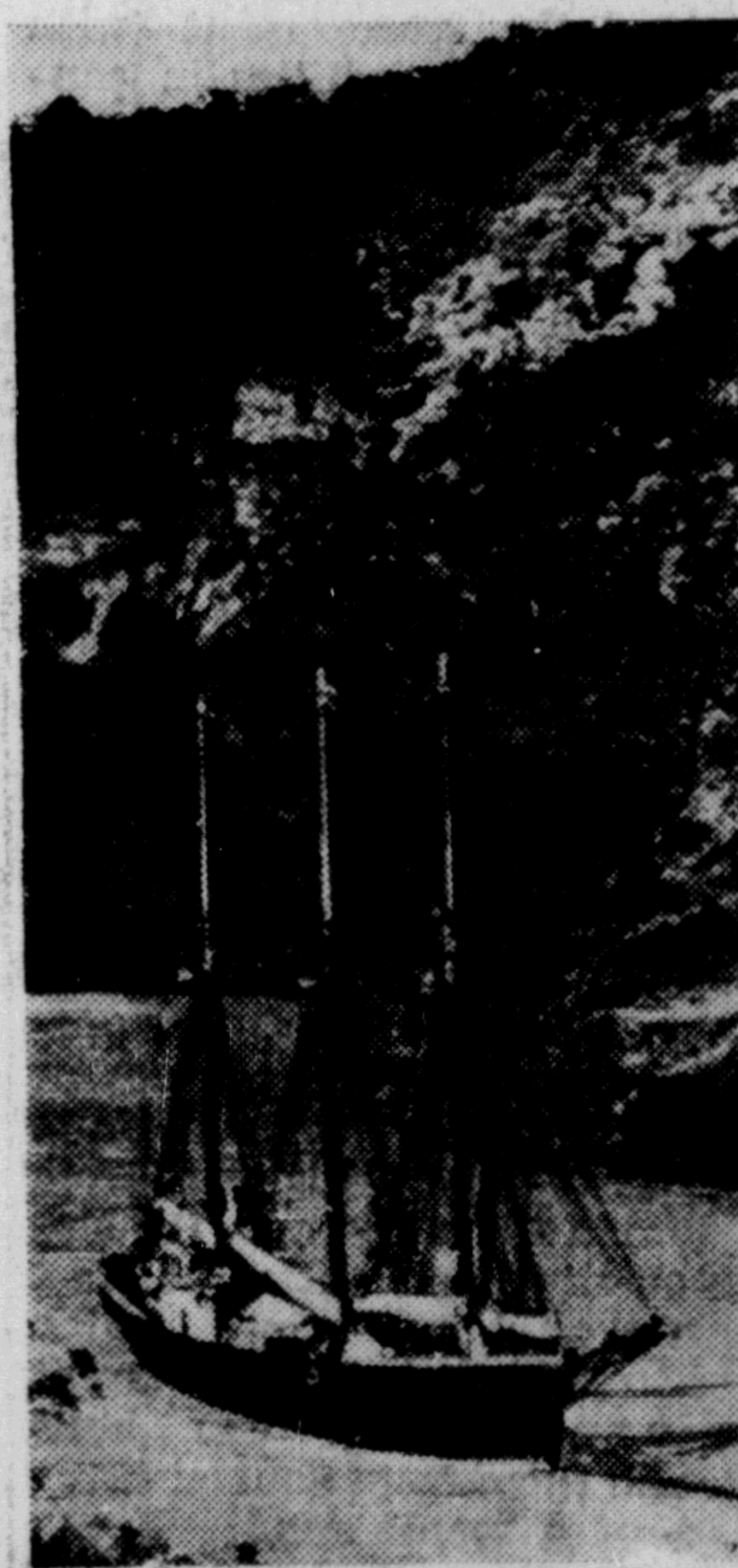
There were packed meetings and plain speaking. On the whole, however, good nature prevailed. There was no lack of sportsmanship. Newton polled 532 votes and Pattullo 445. The aldermen were Thomas Maitland, George Kerr, Thomas McClymont, W. H. Montgomery, John Dybhavn, D. W. Morrisey and Victor Basso-Bert. Others active throughout and who appeared on the platform included the foregoing and M. P. McCaffery, A. H. Allison, W. P. Lynch, J. E. Dyer, Douglas Sutherland, Thomas McClymont, O. H. Nelson and A. H. Allison.

Prince Rupert was young. Her people had the confidence and spirit of enterprise that go with youth. Of course, dreams were meant to be in the future. But, everything would be all right. If anyone had the faintest doubt all he had to do was call on Arthur Little, munching peanuts in his newsstand, down near the dock. He held the post of super-optimist. And would you believe it Prince Rupert had three daily newspapers.

Speaking of grain elevators, the quantity of wheat being handled at Vancouver this winter is about double what it was last year. The situation at Prince Rupert may be said to be unchanged. It was also that way in 1948, 1947, 1946 and 1945.

Ever since before the first war, there has been a tiresome drabness in the attire of important dignitaries on affairs of state. But now there are signs of a change and the public should welcome it. The Windsor uniform may soon be back, in all its elegant splendor. The Supreme Court judges have already taken to their lofty seats on the bench wearing robes of soft crimson with white neckpieces. Well, the taxpayers see little in the way of a show. They should receive something for their money.

In the next three years between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000 will be spent to develop the iron ore deposits in Labrador and Ungava.



RUSSIAN SHIP PASSES THROUGH PANAMA—The Russian fishing schooner Chiaka is shown going through the Gaillard cut of the Panama Canal on her way from the Baltic to the northern Pacific at Vladivostok. The Chiaka is one of three Russian ships that passed through the Caribbean area where the U.S. will stage intensive military manoeuvres in the next few weeks. One report was that the Russian ships may take over Pacific fishing grounds formerly used by the Japanese. All the Red craft were said to be equipped with powerful radios. The hill in background here is historic Gold Hill through which the "big ditch" was cut.

Some say "pan cakes" and some prefer "hot cakes". But there is really no difference. This is the day an affinity is recognized between it and a certain blameless breakfast dish, God Bless it! Warm and brown, melting butter enriching its' charm, and splashed with maple honey small wonder this morning life preserver has a day all its own!

Vancouver, according to the Bureau of Statistics has the highest hourly wage rate in the Dominion, \$17.48, compared with 99.9 cents for the average for Canada. Hamilton, Ont. comes next, with \$14.8. The shortest average work week is also in British Columbia, being 37.7 hours. Will someone now kindly discover where the lowest average cost of living can be found.

The year 1945, in all probability, saw the last war. Any future trouble won't be a war. It would be over in a day or less. With atmosphere poisoned and chief cities ghastly waste places, there wouldn't be anything left to fight for or people to fight each other. Once a climax like this is visualized (and many are convinced) all nations, including Russia, will get away from the idea of conquest.

Premier, Attlee can point to an employed population more starved children, no quarrel with wage scales, expanding exports, and a workable democracy. The result on Thursday is going to be so close it will hurt.

Mrs. Bussinger, Telkwa, Passes

TELKWA—High Mass was celebrated by Father Senechal at the Roman Catholic Church here yesterday for the late Mrs. Hannah Bussinger, 27 wife of Raymond Bussinger, who passed away at the Bulkley Valley District Hospital last Friday after a lingering illness.

Mrs. Bussinger arrived in Telkwa as a war bride in August 1946 from Glasgow, Scotland. Her mother arrived from Scotland some months ago to be with her.

C. P. Bussinger, well known hotel man and merchant of Telkwa was her father-in-law. She leaves one son, Barry, two.

Interment took place at the Telkwa cemetery, pall bearers being Isaac Nicholson, Christopher Peterson, R. J. Phillips, D. C. McEwen, David Mahood and L. T. Buchanan.

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Boy, that was close I didn't see that guy."

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Victoria Report

by J. K. Nesbitt

Hospital Insurance Plans Still Obscure—Bickering, Fighting and Entertainment

VICTORIA—Everyone was left up in the air on hospital insurance after Premier Byron Johnson's policy speech to the Legislature. He left lots of questions unanswered. His speech was carefully prepared in advance, every word weighed well. After it was over observers could read all sorts of interpretations into it. It could be that premiums will go up or some of the benefits reduced.

The Premier said this: "All phases of the service must be examined in order to bring about modifications that may be necessary to improve the plan."

That could mean that such services as drugs, X-rays, deep therapy and such like might be cut out.

Mr. Johnson also said: "We must keep in mind the fact that to maintain these exclusive services requires an understanding on the part of the citizens that the revenue must be sufficient to meet the costs."

That could mean that, if drugs, X-rays, etc. are to be continued, the premiums might have to go up.

The Premier skipping lightly over difficulties in internal administration, told of the great blessing hospital insurance has been to the people of the province. In this, of course, he is quite right. It has been a blessing. No one who has been to hospital grumbles about hospital insurance. The Premier said and everyone agreed with him: "I venture to say that nowhere else on this continent is so wide a hospital service given for so reasonable a premium. For the first time, hospitals in this province have been freed from the worry and anxiety of whether they can keep their doors open and, for the first time, in the history of this province, those citizens stricken with illness are free from financial worry and anxiety which inevitable impairs recovery."

The House was in session but a few days before the public galleries were entertained with the political bickering and fighting they love. The public doesn't like M. I. A. to be too serious. The public gets bored with long speeches, given in drone fashion. The public likes a good legislator, a bit of name-calling as much as the Speaker will let members get away with.

Thus it was the Galleries kept the day Opposition Leader Winch made his speech. He scoffed once more at Coalition, which he again called a marriage of convenience.

The Premier told the Legislature the civil service will be streamlined to save money and create more efficiency. Already the motor vehicle branch has been surveyed by business experts and it has been found \$80,000 a year can be saved. When the whole government service is put on its new basis more than \$1,500,000 a year will be saved.

The Torngat mountains in Labrador rise to about 5,500 feet. Canada's most important single industry is agriculture. About one out of four Canadians is engaged in farming.

'NATIONS' BUSINESS'

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