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A City In Difficulty

THE citizens and we ourselves have at times labored and criticized our city administrations for inactivity, ineptitude and inefficiency and they have no doubt, on occasion, deserved it. When utilities fail to give good and adequate service, when streets and sidewalks become dilapidated to a point where they are notorious disgrace not only in the eyes of the people who live here but in the view of the thousands of people who visit us, the failure to meet the situation is bound to be the focal point of dissatisfaction and criticism. Further, the taxpayers, who foot the bills and sometimes think they are not getting much for their money, are entitled to assurance that they are being given the best measure of return. That there has been some apprehension on that score it is not necessary for the Daily News to say. One has but to listen to the talk that is heard wherever groups of citizens are gathered together.

However, there is also something to be said in fairness to these who have the difficult conducting of city affairs in their hands, a duty from which so many citizens shy away each December when the municipal elections come around. Possibly there is no city in British Columbia whose municipal requirements in the way of public works and services are more difficult today, due to the size and extent of the city, the nature of the terrain, the pressure of growing population, new industrial development and increased demand in recent years and the fact that the city for so many years has been falling into an increasing state of disrepair. The situation today is that, even with all the ingenuity and efficiency of planning and financing that might be exercised, Prince Rupert, as a city corporation, simply has not the available resources to carry out the accumulation of work and projects that have now become urgently essential if this is to be a community in which people can live even comfortably, much less proudly. With water system inadequate, sewers collapsing, streets dilapidated and falling to pieces, sidewalks broken down and dangerous or non-existent—to mention only some of the essentials—the program which must be undertaken right soon, if the place to be inhabitable—would be staggering to the most talented and efficient city councils and administrations.

Prince Rupert, difficult as things may be owing to peculiar local circumstances, is not the only city which finds itself nigh helpless in the grip of forces which cannot be surmounted or controlled. This is not the only city that faces demands—justifiable ones too—from the people for better and more adequate services than they are getting. The fact is that while people are expecting more (and here in Prince Rupert they are today getting less)—in the way of services, the means and resources of the city to meet the needs are hedged by antiquated limitations and restrictions. The point has been reached whereby there is not the wherewithal to meet the most primary needs of a modern civilized community. As the Daily News has pointed out before, what the city of Prince Rupert needs is a "new deal" in the way of financing.

Under these circumstances, the utmost efficiency and good service must be insisted upon in the city government and administration, but, even with all that, Prince Rupert, for one municipality at least, just cannot meet the physical requirements of a constantly deteriorating situation.

We suggest that, as start which cannot be much longer deferred unless the people are forced to move out because of lack of essential services and ordinary amenities of community living, the city, itself, might move towards the instituting of a special study of needs on a large scale and long term basis and special measures which will have to be taken to meet them. In that connection it would be logical to suggest that the co-operation of the provincial municipal affairs department, which keeps us so closely in check from the financial standpoint, might be reasonably enlisted. Something has got to be done. We simply can't go on this way.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FOR TODAY

Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. Psalm 80:4.

ADVERTISING IN THE DAILY NEWS BRINGS RESULTS.



As I See It

By ELMORE PHILPOTT

DEAR WAR BRIDE

THIS IS A LETTER addressed to Marjorie F. Minaker, an English war bride who recently wrote the following letter to a paper:

Sir: This is an open letter to any discontented British war brides living in British Columbia—that lovely country which even England cannot excel.

If they are homesick and if they are lonely and if they think that Canadian life is callow beside the British—they should come home. But they should have a return ticket in their pockets.

If they have not money enough for the return tickets, tell them to stay. Tell them to turn their eyes to the hills and the tall trees and the great lakes, and the restless rivers, that are Canada.

Tell them to think of their husbands, unhappy, perhaps because of their wives' resentment to their own beloved country. Tell them to stick it at all costs—for when they come back they will find to their surprise that Canada has many virtues—and England many faults (which cannot be seen through roseate glasses 6000 miles away).

I am a British war bride—I have been in England six months with my two children—while my husband is still in the lovely little village of Crescent, B.C. I long to come back to Canada

and my husband—but it may be years before I do because I have no return tickets.

If this letter serves any useful purpose, I shall feel happy that my own mistake may prevent others from going a similarly foolish thing.

Marjorie F. Minaker, Babbacombe, Torquay, England.

Well, cheer up Mrs. Minaker. You can get back to B.C. and have a happy family re-union—yes and you can do that for \$500.

NOW ABOUT THE \$500. IF your husband will get in touch with me, and let me know exactly how you are fixed, we will see what can be done. In case you do not want your husband to pay for your mistake, let me know direct. If necessary you could earn the money over there or here in Canada.

Also—see Colonel Alan Chambers, Canada House, London. He is head of our Canadian Veterans' Affairs Department in Britain. He is about the best trouble shooter and fixer-upper I know, and he does just about anything under the sun for families of Canadian veterans.

AND SHUCKS, MRS. MINAKER, don't feel too tragic about it all. I tell our daughter, who is getting married this month, that every bride is entitled to run home to mama at least three times. That's just part of the routine of getting to know how to live with another human being.

That makes it tough for brides who marry and move over oceans. You just can't get your proper quota.

In Friday's Daily News report of the graduating ceremonies of Booth Memorial High School, the name of "Charles Robert Armstrong" appeared as one of the graduating class roll. This should have been "Charles Robert Williamson."

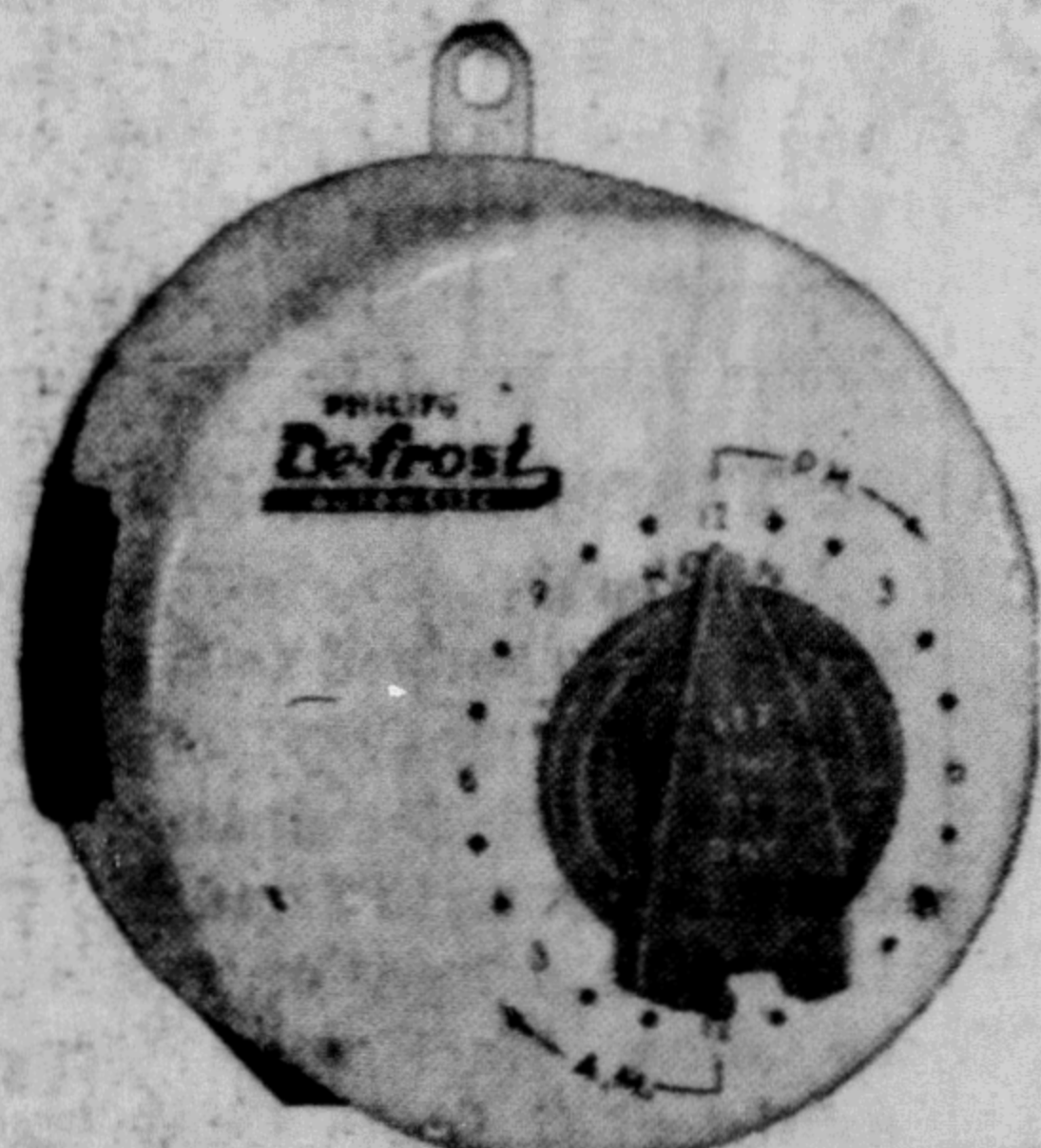
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Ray Reflects and Reminisces

Prince Rupert has been called lots of names in the past forty years. Some were unkind, a few were well deserved, and others were rather picturesque. But all had one thing in common. This was never termed "just another town" which means that after all the abuse, there must be something here.

Prince Rupert will be represented in the big assembly of Boy Scouts in Valley Forge. There will be lads from all over America there, and knowledge of history will be considerably widened. Like enough, some are only finding out where Valley Forge is, and what it's all about.

When Prince Rupert was first heard of, it was to be expected the vast fisheries and mineral wealth of the adjacent coast would be widely discussed. Thousands had never been near there. Someone was describing Portland Canal—all of a hundred miles long.

"Did you say canal?" inquired a listener in all innocence.

"Yes."

"How did Mr. Portland ever dig a canal that size?"

But before the general roar exploded, an elderly, quiet appearing man called:

"I can tell you, mister. The same way old Puget handled his Sound."

In the 25 years ago column, something is said about gold recovery in the black sands of the Queen Charlotte Islands. We'd almost forgotten about that elusive stuff. It had attracted and disappointed people, longer ago than 25 years. No one denies the gold is there, but its quantity is such that separating it from the sand seems practically impossible. But by this time, possibly, someone has a new idea, and would welcome a little help, financially.

Extensive surveys have already been made by the Aluminum Company of Canada in Tweedsmuir Park and down the coast. Before long the Aluminum Company of America will conduct surveys up north, south of Whitehorse, the project covering the northwest section of the Province. Wait a while longer and the asking of questions will become what is known as superfluous.

One naturally dislikes discouragement when the competition is in such a worthwhile cause but the man or woman guessing how long it will take that rotary barrel to float down stream from Terrace earns the prize. The Skeena for the time being, is not dependable. It's now up now down, now out, now in. But, anyway, roll out the barrel and look pleasant!

Hugh Tennant, port steward for Canadian National Steamships, Vancouver, was in the city yesterday going north on the Prince George to make the round trip to Alaska on official duties.

Hot Campaigns In By-Elections

HALIFAX — Political artillery boomed in the riding of Annapolis-Kings and at Halifax as 125,000 electors in the two constituencies tried to decide how to vote in today's Federal by-elections.

At Kentville, Liberal candidate Angus Elderkin, was flanked by Resources Minister Winter and Agriculture Minister Gardiner. John Diefenbaker was alongside candidate George Nowlan. The Annapolis-Kings by-election is a sequel to a decision of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, which declared void Elderkin's election in last year's general election. He won the seat by four votes on a recount.

The Halifax by-election was caused by the elevation of Liberal member Gordon Inor to the Senate. Saturday C.C.F. leader Coldwell addressed a rally in support of Rev. J. W. A. Nicholson, retired minister. Other candidates are S. R. Balcom, Liberal, and Lloyd Allen, Progressive-Conservative.

Although world-famous Enrico Caruso once sang for \$70.36—he didn't even get the money. On a street corner in Cobourg, Ontario, he joined a little band of Salvation Army officers who did not know his identity until the tambourine was passed and filled with large contributions.

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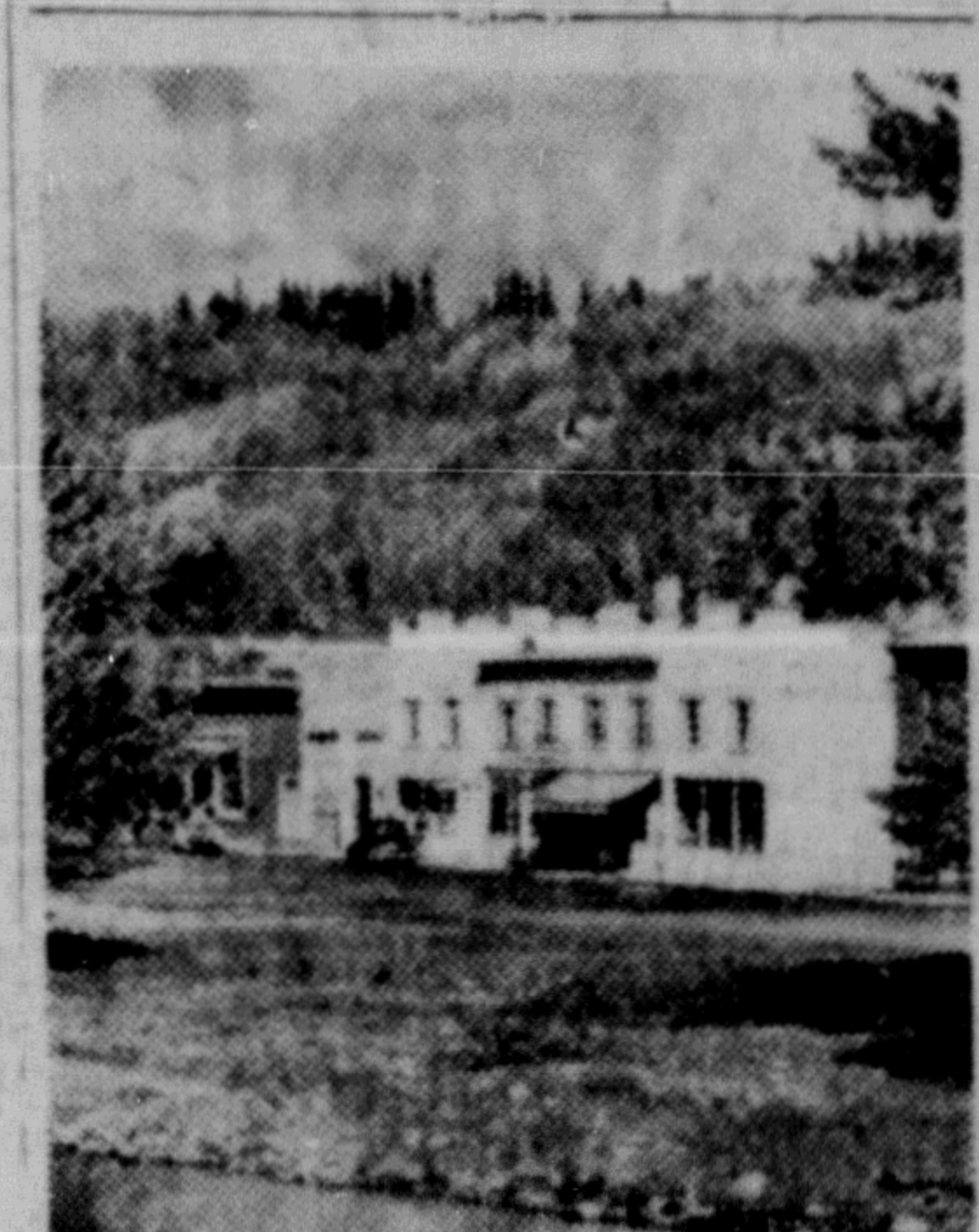
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Little Hope That Miners Still Alive

CADOMIN, Alta. — Two mechanical mud muckers and sweating crews of rescue workers today continued the battle against time to open up the coal mine tomb of five trapped miners. But little hope is held that the men, imprisoned for more than four days, would be found alive.

Discovery yesterday of a broken miner's lamp and the severed lery is silent in the ridings of the diggers were coming close. The mud muckers speeded up the job of moving tons of debris from the tunnel 270 feet below surface.



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