

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.
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MEMBER OF CANADIAN PRESS — AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS
CANADIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
City Carrier, per week, 13c; Per Month, 65c; Per Year, \$7.00; By Mail, Per Month, 40c; Per Year, \$4.00.

Is No News Good?

IF NO NEWS is good news, then everybody should be in good spirits about the current conversations in Moscow between Foreign Minister Molotov and the western envoys for certainly they are being careful enough about not letting anything leak out. Nevertheless, the uncertainty is disconcerting in spite of such comment as that of the American ambassador, after yesterday's meeting, that it had been a "pleasant" talk.

Of course, the mere fact that the talks are taking so long to complete is indication that it is not proving so easy to reach agreement. But, as long as they continue, it also means that there are still the grounds for compromise and agreement.

The fact that our side has had to go to Stalin and Molotov rather than them coming to us is a little hard for some to take. The only reason for this, of course, is that the Allies are using all possible methods to avoid war, even at the risk of losing face. Doubtless, the Russians are acting the way they are because they know the Allies do not want war and will go to almost any length to avoid it.

Considerable significance may attach itself to the appeal of the blockaded Berliners themselves, as reported yesterday, that the Allies not concede control of Berlin to the Russians. That would indicate that either the Berliners think the Russians are bluffing or that they would not be afraid to fight it out.

And if the German people themselves would call the bluff or fight it out, there would appear to be no good reason for undue concessions or appeasement.

Maybe we will not have to wait so long now before the situation clarifies itself one way or another.

C.N.R. SHIP REPAIR

INFORMATION IS THAT the veteran steamer Prince Rupert, now that she has relief, will be going off the run this fall or winter for an extensive overhaul which is understood to be long over due. When they quit building ships a year or so ago, the railway people assured us that the Prince Rupert dry dock yard would be maintained as a repair establishment. No doubt, the railway or steamship management has in mind the use of its local yard for that work when it comes up and, likewise, the overhaul of the new Prince George when the time arrives.

We are expecting that work here in Prince Rupert even though we have not heard anything definite about it and nothing much has been said from here. Possibly, since there appears to be no reason why the annual overhaul of the company's ships should not again be done at Prince Rupert now that conditions are back to normal again, we should not even suspect that consideration might be given to doing it elsewhere.

Nevertheless, we know there are other hungry shipyards which would be glad to take the work away from us if we went to sleep on the matter.

Mrs. Joseph Cloutier returned on last night's train from the east. She has been spending an extended holiday in Winnipeg and Calgary.

Miss Katie Meyer, who has been visiting here with Dr. and Mrs. G. E. H. Montgomery, is sailing this afternoon on the Catala for Vancouver.



"You didn't forget the RECKITT'S Blue, Mummy!"

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YOUTHS ON YAWL BACK

"Teal" Calls Enroute to Seattle—Sails Without Her Skipper

There was an empty berth on the little blue "Teal" this morning as she scudded southward, a tiny cloud of gray canvass on the long homeward voyage to Seattle.

Jack Seiler, the 23-year old skipper of the 26-foot back-stay yawl, had to leave his command at Prince Rupert. When Jack and his two shipmates, Bob Johnson and Bob deSpelder, docked their craft at the Prince Rupert Yacht Club Wednesday afternoon, they were interviewed by a member of the provincial police and Jack was handed a wire informing him that his father was seriously ill in Detroit. Unable to contact the three adventuring young men by ordinary communications, descriptions of the boys and their boat was sent out over police and Coastguard networks.

Arrangements were immediately made for Jack's flight home via Vancouver, Seattle and Minneapolis. Before leaving on yesterday's plane Jack rid himself of whiskers and, as he said goodbye to his seafaring friends, his clean-shaven face contrasted sharply with the bearded profiles of his chums.

The "Teal" and her youthful crew first arrived in Prince Rupert two weeks ago from Seattle. After a two-day stop-over in port, they continued on to Ketchikan. Northbound they spent the first night in the lee of Green Island anchored near the lighthouse tender "Birnie." Next day they completed the last leg of the journey and docked at the Ketchikan Yacht Club. While there they were guests on a broadcast interview and taken on a two-day trout fishing expedition to Annette Island.

On the return trip to Prince Rupert they spent four days, two of them as guests of the lighthouse keepers on Mary Island. The following night they spent near a fish trap off the mainland shore. It was one of the worst anchorages the boys have had on the coast, the tiny yawl took a beating as she rode the big surges but the crew were thankful the anchor held and that they didn't have to claw the ship away from the menace of the rocky shore.

Thursday night wasn't pleasant either. They ran into one of the inlets on the north end of Dundas Island for shelter and ran aground trying to pass from one channel to another. With no dingy the entire crew had to strip and wade ashore where they cut props to support the "Teal." It was a slanty sleep they had and next morning the tide was scarcely high enough to lift their boat clear. From their unfortunate anchorage on Dundas Island they made it to Tugwell Island without incident and there a fishboat offered them a tow through the Metlakatla Passage.

The youthful trio from Detroit have been surprised at the wonders of "Inside Passage" and are generous in their praise for the kindness and courtesy exhibited by the people they came in contact with during the trip. Bob Johnson and Bob deSpelder will sail the "Teal" to Seattle and they hope that Jack will be able to join them there again so that they may resume their wanderings. The young men plan to be at home for Christmas.

Miss Audrey Hunter, who has been spending a three weeks' vacation at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Hunter, is sailing by the Catala this afternoon on her return to her nurses' training duties at Vancouver General Hospital.



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Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

This is the way to pronounce the name of the new leader of Canada's Liberals. Put your tongue against your teeth and say "Sa'Lor Ah." But what if you're waiting for a set of teeth?

With by-elections, conventions and the choosing of new party leaders, Canadians are politically minded, this summer. Many appear to think that to be a member, or to hold office, is only another way to be on the way to wealth, as well as prestige. History proves otherwise. Private, not public life, can be the most profitable. And often it could never be said of the most eminent that they were rich, unless it was in ability and the satisfaction of long public service.

It's great to be a good guesser. Jerg Barrington of Ketchikan is \$3,579 the richer for making the closest estimate of whom the ice pack would move out from Point Barrow. But we can't even guess what the weather will be like tomorrow and get away with it.

Canon Rushbrook's Family Gathering

"Whatever you do have an objective and whatever you do, do it well." This was part of the philosophy Canon W. F. Rushbrook's father impressed on his sons and daughters and to Canon Rushbrook who celebrated his eightieth year yesterday. It is still used as a guide to everyday living by Canon Rushbrook.

He applied this rule when he had to do his own cooking on the mission boat and, once he had accepted the challenge, he developed an interest and pride in his culinary ability. Today he is very much a master in his own kitchen and yesterday evening he was host to a small dinner party in his home.

Guests at the gathering were his sister, Mrs. Charles Ruskin of New Westminster, his brother, Ernest Rushbrook of Toronto, and Mrs. Barney Eyoifson his niece and her husband.

Mrs. S. Peterson and son, who have been visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Giske, are sailing by the Catala this afternoon, on their return to their home in Vancouver.

Miss Dolly Ostrom of the Bella Bella post office staff is sailing by the Catala this afternoon on her return down the coast after a two weeks' holiday visit in the city.

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Port Churchill, according to those who speak with authority, will have a busy shipping season. The minimum flow of wheat will be about ten million bushels. We neglected to inquire, this morning, what the minimum flow—if any—would be at the local plant.

It was the late President Woodrow Wilson who said "The history of liberty is the history of the limitation of government power—not the increase of it." Which reminds one strongly of the late Captain Hoomes K. Freeman of Prince Rupert, who wrote numerous letters on public affairs to the News and former Empire. And each letter, written in lead pencil black would finish with the words "the best governed country is the least governed country."

Vice-Admiral Sir W. G. Tennant, now on the coast aboard the cruiser Sheffield, made a few remarks recently and all worth pondering. Today, no country wants war. Appeasement only means future trouble. The Allies will do well to remain strong. Air power notwithstanding, naval might must stand, or as long as supplies are carried by sea. Detection equipment will more than meet the menace of submarines with greatly increased submerged speed.

DROUGHTY DRIBBLES

By W. J.

Favorite breakfast greeting today appeared to be "Good morning. Have you washed your face?"

An acquaintance, finding a rather arid bathroom as the dawn came up, so lovely, over Eastview, across the bay, found he could shave all right even without a drop of water. He used apple juice. It worked like a charm. He went down to breakfast, with cheeks as smooth as an ambassador and smelling like an orchard.

If you're a householder, and ever wondered how many old pots, saucepans, kettles, pitchers, pails and pans you owned, you found out last night, when instructions to draw off water were heard.

Carl Gustafson sr., veteran of the Rupert water department, has been in retirement for sometime, but he is very much in service at present. Of all men, Gus is informed concerning the ins and outs and other points respecting distribution, pipes, dates, wear and tear, locations and what have you. In fact, his experience goes back to practically the start. His co-operation cannot but save time and work.

Kenneth Mah, who has been holidaying in Calgary and other prairie cities, returned home last evening.



REGISTRATION OF VENDORS
Pursuant to
THE SOCIAL SECURITY & MUNICIPAL AID TAX

All vendors who have not already made application for registration under the Act are asked to co-operate with the Government and register immediately in order to be sure that their applications for registration may be processed and their registration certificates issued before September 1st.

This call for co-operation is made because after that date the Commissioner, under the provisions of the Act, has no alternative but to enforce these provisions which make it an offence against the Act to make any retail sales unless the vendor making such sales is in possession of a registration certificate.

Over 35,000 applications for registration have been sent out, but returns to the Government are by no means complete. To those who have applied, registration certificates have been sent. All those vendors who have not completed and filed their applications for registration under the Act with THE COMMISSIONER, SOCIAL SECURITY AND MUNICIPAL AID TAX, VICTORIA, B.C., are requested to do so immediately to ensure that they will receive their registration certificate and the tax return forms necessary for the remittance of the tax collected before 1st September, 1948.

To clarify certain misunderstandings, the Government wishes to point out:

Whenever medicaments are sold on a repeat basis on the authority of an original prescription, they also are exempt from tax.

Coal, wood and fuel oil are exempt as they are already subject to taxation under other Statutes. Electricity and manufactured gas, however, not being taxed under any other Statute, are subject to tax under this Act.

All purchases made by the Province of British Columbia are subject to tax, including those purchases which are exempt from the Dominion Sales Tax.

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