

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.
MEMBER OF CANADIAN PRESS — AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS
CANADIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
City Carrier, per week, 15c; Per Month, 65c; Per Year, \$7.00;
By Mail, Per Month, 40c; Per Year, \$4.00.

Economic Realities

BBRITISH LABOR is learning in the hard school of experience.

Sir Stafford Cripps is a good teacher. "We would be courting a disaster," he said recently, "if we pursued the will-o-the-wisp of increased personal incomes when we have not got and could not get the goods to match the incomes."

"We must," he went on to say, "exercise the restraint of a democrat unless we are to be forced into methods of totalitarian control." "There was," he continued, "no case whatever for any further general increase of personal income though there might be cases where wages needed to be raised for some special reason."

There is now a stern hand at the controls. Sir Stafford Cripps was the first of the labor statesmen to face the facts. For years labor has been told that wages could be raised substantially. The funds were to be taken from profits. Now a new and more powerful light is being brought to bear on the scene—the light of experience.

The Manchester Guardian Weekly has this to say in a recent issue:

"The main obstacle to be overcome—which, unfortunately, the White Paper ignores—is the belief that profits are excessive and can be squeezed in order to give wage increases without raising prices."

It goes on to add:

"Dividends are quite deceptive; in most companies profits are a very small proportion of the turnover. They cannot be taxed much more severely without causing very real hardship to many people and seriously weakening the incentive on which much of our economic effort depends."

And the Labor Government in England has at last been compelled to recognize the truth. The recent issue of "The Economist" states the case in these words:

"They, (the members of the Labor Government) will have much educational work to do, both on themselves and their followers. They will have to show what the alternatives are: a mere increase in money incomes which secures only a passing improvement in real wages at the expense of other members of the community, or a further impetus to rising costs, stagnation in exports, threatened unemployment and a thriving black market."

This, of course, is only a brief reference to the process going on in the ranks of labor throughout the length and breadth of England. What has brought it about? The force of circumstances. There is no other answer. A government came into power in England with promises more lavish than Major Douglas proffered to Alberta, perhaps as our Socialists now proffer to the voters of Canada. They thought that capital was an almost endless source of supply for higher standards of living for the workers. They thought to combine higher earnings, shorter hours with higher standards of living. Unfortunately or perhaps fortunately they began to realize that wages and salaries are a means of distribution of goods and that production must precede distribution.

The facts are being driven home with telling force. In the absence of increased production, prices rise. With the increase in prices comes the reduction in real wages. The worker has more money but it will buy less goods. The laws of economics are stern and implacable. We reap what we have sown. In the new Nirvana, if it ever comes, labor will cease to fear. It will know that, with increased production, comes prosperity for labor in England and a prosperous world, on which after all England's prosperity depends.

KEEPING CREDIT GOOD

TO KEEP one's credit above reproach is a good thing for a nation, a country or an individual, and Canada, according to the Minister of Finance, may be said to enjoy this distinction. Numerous Canadians, when they read the recent budget, neglected to lavish much praise which was natural enough. When there is a great surplus, relief from soaring taxes is expected. However, the Minister knew his own mind, and proposed to do as he considered best, no matter who might feel disposed to argue the point. So that was that.

Announcement is made that the government has borrowed \$150,000,000 from three United States insurance companies, on 15 year bonds, paying three per cent and taken at par. Most of the loan will be used to retire advances to Canada from a bank in Washington.

The transaction, despite all the criticism, this crisis and that crisis, war rumors, confusion and spreading of mischievous half-truths, harmful propaganda, illustrates the cardinal and fundamental fact that in Canada there is stability, and that her credit is sound.

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Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

In future, there will be a lower rank than "Private" in the Army. It will be known as "Recruit." Having memories of chastisement, administered by a hard-boiled, tobacco chewing drill sergeant, we hasten to say that at such a time it was impossible, being a private, to sink any lower, or to feel any cheaper.

The general understanding in Canada that no man over forty years of age need expect to find employment appears to be subject to revision. Quite a number of well known citizens, mentioned as possible successors to Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. Bracken are known to be even more than fifty.

Social Credit campaigners in Quebec, where the political pot is bubbling musically just now, are said to have no war chest. Supporters all chip in—a bit here, a little there—and generally speaking, the spending of

actual cash is kept to the minimum. Often, a speaker is invited to dinner, or stays a few days in somebody's home. Something like the old days when the roving minister would be asked in for the week-end, or longer. Usually, the eats would have the average cafe or hotel badly beaten. And everybody would be so perfectly, wonderfully well behaved.

Jean Wacker, who first saw Kalen Island in 1905 has been revisiting Prince Rupert. After the lapse of 43 years, he had plenty to see. He was here so early, that the G.T.P. had found it necessary to take steps against the attitude of Metlakatla natives who protested the railway claim of exclusive use of the island. The Indians had defied the government. The next to defy the railway was John Houston, and he succeeded in making it stick. He had a grievance, but this was a horse of another color.

Berlin's Currency

BERLIN. — The philosophy that fundamentally everyone wants the same things—comfort, security, prestige and affection—is supported even in this city of rubble and confusion that was once the heart of Germany.

For instance, give candies to a waiter. He'll probably tell you he could sell them for a good price on the black market—but wants them for his children.

Give your taxi driver a cigarette that may be worth two or three dollars, according to the state of the panicky market. More often than not, with a grunt of satisfaction, he smokes it.

I gave a bag of candies to a man on the elevator at Hotel Am Zoo, home of transient newspapermen in Berlin. He said he could sell them for a good price, but I later found he had given them to the receptionist—for her small daughter.

"One gift makes another," said the receptionist. "My daughter will share the sweets with her friends. She is always giving."

A chambermaid described how she would use 20 cigarettes given her in payment for washing a reporter's shirts.

Four to smoke; six to exchange for three loaves of bread, giving her family two extra slices of bread daily for two weeks; three for a new hair-do; five for a new hat for mother; two for her sister.

"I have a gold mine," she laughed.

Futile to Save
With each new currency crisis the value of the mark has changed. So the German treats currency as a farce.

"What use are marks in your pocket?" asked a smoke-grimed factory hand who works in the American sector of Berlin, but lives in the British. "Better to have things you can enjoy and share with your family and friends. I never save. It is futile to save."

Two factors contribute to the high value of cigarettes and candies:

1. They are bought freely by wealthy racketeers frequenting the more expensive night clubs.
2. German farmers pay large

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NEW

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Now a "hasty baking" doesn't mean a for yeast! New Fleischmann's Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast stays fresh in your cupboard. Use exactly like fresh yeast in all recipes — gives grandest baking results at home — order a month's supply of Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast from your grocer. Once you try it—you'll always use it!

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quantities of fruit and vegetables to secure them.

In stores, dealers would rather sell goods for cigarettes and candies than for marks. The day Allies announced a new currency for Western Germany, dealers refused to sell for marks and thousands of Berliners were turned away empty-handed.

"Money has gone crazy in Germany," said a middle-aged Berlin banker. "Only a sane government can restore it to sanity and there will never be a sane government while our city is administered by four different powers."

AIR PASSENGERS

From Vancouver—P. Michalcuk, R. Gastonguay, H. Chambers, M. Malkinson, N. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ferguson, L. Veigle, Mrs. M. Bowden, Capt. Gordon, W. Finlayson and J. Shedden.

From Sandspit — Mr. Philli, Mr. Russell, Mr. Hodgkins and W. Couper.

For Vancouver—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cembella, Ed. Barnsdale, Mr. McAllister, Mr. C. Jacobs, Miss B. Seldon, C. Heppner and Mr. A. Bunn.

Toonerville Skipper Dies

MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.—Edward C. Glaser, 72, the original "skipper" of the Toonerville Trolley, is dead.

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