

The Daily News

Published at Canada's Most Strategic Pacific Port—"Prince Rupert, the Key to the Great Northwest."
VOL. XXXVII, No. 3. PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1948 PRICE FIVE CENTS

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YOUNG WOMAN IS MURDERED

Brutal Bludgeoning In Winnipeg Leads to Police Court Sequel

WINNIPEG—Midnight bludgeoning of an attractive Winnipeg brunette will have a sequel in court today when, police say, Clarence G. Richardson will be charged with the slaying of 25-year-old Ann Varty.

Body of the mother of three children, including a seven-year-old boy at a Brantford, Ontario, school for the blind, was found late Saturday in a snow bank. Fifteen hours later Richardson was arrested but details leading to his arrest were not disclosed.



LEADS RED GUERRILLAS—A former tobacco worker, grocer, clerk and church candle-lighter, Markos Vafiades, above, whose title in the "Greek Democratic Army" is "Generalissimo Markos," is the one man responsible more than any other for the troubles of the present Greek government. One of the oldest members of the Greek Communist party, he has been imprisoned and exiled more than half a dozen times. He was political commissar of the E.L.A.S. (left wing resistance forces) during the occupation and was made commander-in-chief of the guerrilla movement when the E.L.A.S. was dissolved. He is a member of the central committee of the Communist party.

DeGaulle Suggests Corporate State

PARIS—General Charles DeGaulle has called for a corporate state in France. Under his plan management and labor would be represented in the National assembly.

COLLAPSES AND DIES ON STREET

Veteran Employee of Canadian National Succumbs

Thomas E. King, a veteran employee of the bridge and building department of Canadian National Railways, collapsed and died on Fulton Street, near Fifth Avenue, while on his way to work shortly before 8 o'clock this morning. He was 54 years old.

Born at Shelton, Washington, Mr. King served in England with the Second Battalion, B.C. Regiment, during the First World War. Since returning from overseas, he had been with the bridge and building department of the railway. He was a member of the Canadian Legion.

He collapsed on his way to work at the C.N.R. dock, and was taken to hospital in the city ambulance.

He is survived by his wife who resides at 343 Seventh Avenue West.

NEW HIGHWAY WILL SERVE YELLOWKNIFE

EDMONTON—A \$4,000,000 highway, started in the summer of 1946 and expected to be completed next summer, will usher in a new era for Canada's north-land.

Only 75 miles of road remain to be completed in the Grimshaw-Hay River highway. This all-weather road extends for 383 miles along the bank of the Hay River, through a wilderness of forest and boulders between Grimshaw in the Peace River country and Hay River post on the south shore of Great Slave Lake.

When the highway is officially opened next August Yellowknife and adjacent mining areas will be served for the first time in history with a first-class gravelled highway over which heavy freight and supplies may be shipped the year round from Edmonton and other north-country supply depots.

One of the wettest summers in northern history held back scheduled progress of the work during 1947. It had originally been planned to complete the highway before freeze-up.

The permanent frost problem, one that plagued United States Army engineers while building the Alaska Highway and the Canol pipeline road, entered the picture in this highway too.

The 1948 city council will hold its first meeting tonight. The new council consists of Mayor Arnold, and Aldermen Black, Brooksbank, Rudderham, J. R. Morin, W. F. Stone, McKay, Casey and Nickerson.

NEWSPAPER MAN PASSES

Thomas Graham, Editor of Canadian Weekly Editor, Succumbs Suddenly

VANCOUVER—Thomas H. R. Graham, 40-year-old newspaperman, died suddenly on Sunday. He was a member of a Vancouver publishing firm and editor of the magazine, the Canadian Weekly Editor.

A former president of the Courtenay-Comox Board of Trade, Mr. Graham was editor of the Comox District Free Press in 1944-45. He is survived by a widow and two sons in Courtenay.

LONGEST TUSK
The longest elephant tusk of which there is authentic record is 11 feet 5 1/2 inches long.

C.C.F Opposes Arms To China

Grand Forks Is Alarmed

After Arson Fire In Which Business Block, Housing Doukhobor Store, Destroyed

GRAND FORKS, B.C.—Assistant Provincial Fire Marshal Percy Nicholls of Vancouver arrived here by plane Saturday night to launch a probe into the dynamiting resulting in a \$20,000 fire which destroyed the Burns business block on New Year's Eve.

Police today were continuing the search for an arsonist.

Meanwhile a wave of fear engulfed this small city and its inhabitants that there might be new outbreaks of Doukhobor fire raids. The people were staying away from theatres and public gatherings.

Marshal Nicholls indicated that a "considerable" charge of dynamite and gasoline-soaked sawdust had been used to cause the explosion and fire.

A Doukhobor store was housed in the building and authorities believe the explosion and fire originated there.

"This is a threat to our community," said members of the city council when decision was made to offer a \$2,000 reward for arrest and conviction of the arsonist.



STRIKERS HALT TRAFFIC ON THE ANCIENT APPIAN WAY—The ancient Appian Way—artery of empire when Rome ruled the world—is blocked by road-block set up by striking workers and farmhands on the outskirts of Albano. The block completely disrupted traffic on this route. The disturbance was only one of the series of similar disorders that tore Italy.

Christmas trees lashed to lamp posts on Third Avenue, were branded as a traffic hazard before a coroner's jury Saturday afternoon by Lionel (Bill) Lamb, driver of the taxi cab which struck down 70-year-old George Holmes in front of the post office on Christmas Eve.

The jury found that Holmes died on December 30 "as a result of injuries received in a collision with a moving automobile on December 24, about 11 p.m., on Third Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets."

"From the evidence, we are of the opinion that deceased walked into the side of the moving vehicle and that the driver, Lionel Lamb, did everything possible to avoid the accident," the verdict stated.

Both Lamb and Cherrill McIntyre, driver of another taxi which followed closely behind Lamb's cab as it drove westward on Third Avenue, asserted that Christmas trees, tied to downtown lamp posts were a threat to public safety.

Lamb, who gave testimony on invitation of Coroner M. M. Stephens, said that he had been driving westward between "15 and 20 miles an hour" through the driving rain. He drove a normal distance from the curb, he said.

"I passed a parked car and a Christmas tree in front of the Post Office," he testified. "As I passed the Christmas tree Holmes stepped out onto the street. I swerved to miss him, but struck him with the right front door. I pulled over to the curb, then ran back to him. Cherrill McIntyre had him in his arms, so I ran back to 80 Taxi and telephoned the ambulance."

Lamb said that, when Holmes emerged from behind the tree, he was so close that "I felt sure I couldn't miss him. I swerved to avoid hitting him with the front of the car."

McIntyre, who had been driving behind Lamb from McBride Street, estimated the speed of the two cars at about 25 miles an hour. Visibility at the time, he said, was "practically nil."

"Near the post office, the car in front suddenly swerved. Then I noticed a man lying on the road. The driver of the other car pulled over to the curb and stopped. I didn't see the man at all before he was lying on the road," McIntyre said.

"Do you think that the Christmas trees there obscured the view?" Coroner Stephens asked. "I certainly do," McIntyre replied. "They are a public nuisance."

DARING SAFE CRACKING JOB

VANCOUVER—Safecrackers escaped with \$1500 today after blowing a strong box in the Barn, a Granville Street cafe. They also took \$400 in checks. Police said they had enough nitroglycerine to blow up the whole building which is also occupied by a hotel. They left a quantity of the "soup" behind.

WITNESSES SCORE CURBSIDE TREES AT INQUEST INTO HOLMES DEATH

Evergreens On Lamp Posts Branded 'Public Nuisance' By Taxi Driver—No Blame Attached to Anyone for Christmas Eve Mishap

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Canadian Freight On U.S. Roads Up

MONCTON, N.B.—Effective today, Canadian freight on United States railroads will be subject to a twenty percent increase, replacing the ten percent boost effective last October. This sudden announcement came last night from Rand H. Matheson, manager of the Maritime Transportation Commission. There was no immediate explanation of why. No previous announcement had been made from Ottawa.

CANADA OPENS WAR COLLEGE

KINGSTON—Defence Minister Brooke Claxton today opened Canada's new national defence college, declaring its establishment "is another stage in serious acceptance by Canada of its defence responsibilities in the post-war world."

Courses at the college, located at historic Fort Frontenac, will be similar to those of Britain's Imperial Defence College and the United States War College with emphasis on co-ordination of defence.



AGITATOR DOWNED BY ITALIAN POLICE—Seated on the street with his hands to his head is an alleged Communist agitator, after he was downed by Italian police who broke up an impending riot outside the Italian chamber of deputies, during the general strike called by Communist labor boss Giuseppe Di Vittorio. The riot started outside the chamber of deputies building in Rome when police tried to disperse mobs of yelling strikers. Red deputies from the chamber ran out to try and halt the police beating their fellow Reds, and they too fared very badly because police mauled and beat some of them also. The strike was called off when thousands of workers returned to work after two days.

Will Attack Government Policy, Says Archibald

OTTAWA—H. G. Archibald, C.C.F. member for Skeena, said in an interview today that his party intends to attack the government policy of sending military aid to Nationalist China. He was commenting on \$15,000,000 of arms having been sent from Canada to China since V-J Day. Canada, by its action, declared Archibald, was upholding a system of feudalism in China.

RUSSELL SPEARS IS RECAPTURED

PENTICTON—Russell Spears, who escaped from jail here November 14 while awaiting sentence on a charge of assault, was captured by police after being brought down Sunday by a shot which went through his left knee. He was brought to hospital here and doctors performed an operation in an attempt to save the leg.

Spears had been living in a hide-out in the woods in relative luxury with turkey and venison in abundance and a comfortably furnished shack.

The hide-out was found December 14 but he escaped in a running gunfight in which a police officer was wounded.

Early Sunday an Indian notified the police that he had seen a "suspicious character" on a reserve south of here. The police found another home-made shack under nesting trees. When Spears appeared, he refused to drop his rifle and the police opened fire, dropping him in the snow.

Cpl. Jack Watts of the British Columbia Police led the capture party.

Tragedy on Rail Track

Ten Children Killed When New York Central Crashes Into Bobsled

ARCHBOLD, Ohio—A New York Central passenger train knifed through a bobsled party of children on Sunday, killing ten farm children from three families and scattering parts of the tractor-drawn sleigh and bodies for a mile down the right-of-way.

The two other children were injured but Jesse Wyse, driver of the tractor, and his son, John, 13, escaped without injury.

"I thought the track was clear," Wyse said today. "I just stiffened in my seat. The train hit the sled, tore it loose from the tractor and hurled it down the track."

The train was traveling at eighty miles per hour.

ABORIGINES GET FIVE-POINT QUIZ

SYDNEY, Australia—A test questionnaire that might well cause many white men and women to balk, or at least comment perjury has been drawn up for West Australian aborigines.

The West Australian government is granting full citizenship rights to the aborigines providing they can answer under oath before a magistrate that they live a life strictly conforming to the following standards:

1. Are you of industrious habits and of good behaviour and reputation?
2. Have you for the past two years adopted the manner and habits of civilized life?
3. Are you reasonably capable of managing your own affairs?
4. Are full rights of citizenship desirable for you and are they likely to be conducive to your welfare?
5. Are you able to speak and understand the English language?

Sixty-three natives have answered to the satisfaction of the magistrates and have been granted full citizenship rights under an act introduced in 1944. News of the act is spreading among the area's 25,000 aborigines, and more apply to take advantage of it every day.

HUMAN DEBRIS FOUND IN ITALY

ROME, (AP)—War has left in Italy human debris of races, nationalities and political beliefs amounting to perhaps 500,000 persons who have settled to stay, if they can.

Police, who give the 500,000 estimate, say many of these people are centres of political intrigue webs reaching into eastern Europe and Russia.

The most important group of "newly-seeded" foreigners is made up of Slavs—all shades of them, from White Russians and Ukrainians to Poles, Serbs, Croats and Bulgars.

Poles number many thousands. They came with the Germans and later with Gen. Anders armies, and they are among those who least desire to return to their own country.