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Protecting Waterfront

SUNDAY afternoon's sudden gale which wrecked the Prince Rupert Rowing and Yacht Club and played havoc generally along a central section of the local waterfront made evident the importance of adequate protection of our marine and fishing property which has long been a vital part of the economic life blood of this community. It can easily be imagined how great a disaster it might have been had that storm come up in the middle of the night instead of the middle of the day.

Of course, all floats and mooring places of the mosquito fleet cannot be equipped with breakwaters but the storm on Sunday and the effects thereof demonstrated the need of such protection for at least some of the more important and extensively used mooring places.

Had there been a coastguard service stationed here, such as we have been long and persistently advocating, it could have swung into useful action in just such an incident as this storm. Maybe the naval organization might be developed along these lines.

Disaster might strike the waterfront in more ways than one. There might, in addition to storm, be explosion or fire. To be forewarned might well be the signal to be forearmed with equipment and organization. Possibly, as a community, we have not been paying sufficient attention to the safety and protection of our waterfront.

NO ELECTION SURPRISES

THREE FEDERAL by-elections went yesterday quite as might have been expected.

George Drew, the new national leader of the Progressive-Conservative party, gets his seat in Parliament by winning in Carleton where the government appropriately enough co-operated with him by refraining from entering a candidate. In Marquette, Manitoba, the new minister of justice, Stuart Garson, obtained a seat with the similar co-operation of the Progressive-Conservatives who refrained from a pointless contest. As a matter of fact, Mr. Drew and Mr. Garson might well have been accorded acclamations. Mr. Coldwell, the C.C.F. leader, admits that the only point of his party having candidates was so they would be able to spread a little more Socialistic doctrine.

It was expected that the Liberal would win Laval-Two Mountains and thus increase the strength of the government party. By some the result in the Quebec seat may be taken as indicating that the federal Liberal party is still maintaining its strength in spite of the Duplessis influence. It might have been anticipated that the fact of a French-Canadian Prime Minister would bolster up the government there.

GOOD OLD COLONIST

THE VICTORIA COLONIST was ninety years old on December 12, and the anniversary was observed with a 152-page edition, each copy weighing three pounds. The special paper is highly interesting from an historical standpoint.

The paper was founded by a roving Nova Scotian named Bill Smith who, later in life discarded his original name while living in California. By act of the California legislature he became known as Amor de Cosmos, meaning "lover of the world." The rest of his life was spent in Victoria. He served as premier of British Columbia.

The present publisher H. T. Matson was host to the entire staff, on the anniversary. Also present were the publishers of all Vancouver dailies, and representatives of the Canadian Press, press gallery, and the Victoria and Island papers.

Of the many notable achievements scored by the Colonist, the greatest was its scoop announcing the surrender of General Cronje's Boer army in February 1900. The paper beat even the British War Office.

TALKING OF WEATHER

WEATHER is such an easy, convenient and harmless subject of conversation. It wears so well. It seems equally popular anywhere, anytime and under almost any circumstances. Discussing the weather can occupy an hour or longer or last but a few minutes. One can dwell on the climate in a serious vein, or indulge, say, in a little discreet banter.

Yes, the weather is a most admirable form of small talk. Sometimes, the latter is classed as gossip, which has its risky side. A name, an incident, a suggestion, etc., etc. But not so, our good old climate. We can all talk as we feel and wear a frown or a smile. It's the safest, most blameless topic there is. Long may it shine. We were going to write "long may it pou . . ." but hastened to withdraw it.

FIRST OIL WELL

The beginning of the petroleum industry dates back to the middle of the 19th century, when the first oil well was sunk in deliberate search for "black gold."

CROWDED NURSERY

All eels are born in the ocean south of Bermuda, find their way to lakes and rivers in Canada and other countries and return to their birthplaces to spawn.



"MISS CHRISTMAS SEAL FOR 1948"—Canadians are introduced to little "Miss Christmas Seal for 1948," two-year-old Pamela Lamphere of Chicago, who poses for this picture as her contribution to the annual Christmas Seal sale sponsored by the Tuberculosis Institute. The Chicago tot wears a little dress and hat made of Christmas seals. Most of her recent pictures have been made in her little nightgown as she lay in a bed in hospital where she underwent a series of rare abdominal operations because she was born with a bladder outside her body.



'OLD GEORGE'

We have a man in our town. A character of great renown. From the land of the shamrock he descends, With a fiery temper, that never ends.

On the Council he's determined to die, And there he sits, with suspicious sigh. He exposes them all, not turning his eye, And he makes them so mad, they all start to cry.

We've called him "Old George," the past twenty years, If he's sitting in Council, or drinking his beers. He can't be held down, so on he must go, And fight for our City, facing his foe.

—"MARGUERITE."

LITTLE THEATRE REPEATS PLAY

Prince Rupert's Little Theatre group presented the second showing of its early winter plays, "Hot Water" and "Sleepy Time Down South" in the Civic Centre last night to an audience of 150 under sponsorship of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Proceeds from the show will be turned over by the Junior Chamber to the Salvation Army Christmas Cheer fund.

Both the two-act play and the musical were well received by the audience as they were to the original group of 400 which saw the first showing early this month.

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150 ATTEND XMAS PARTY AT CITADEL

Santa Claus made an appearance to almost 150 children at the Salvation Army Christmas concert held at the Citadel recently, climaxing a program which included presentations by young people of the Corps lasting more than an hour.

The program was arranged by Senior Captain Mrs. J. Chambers and was highlighted by a club-swinging exercise by five members of the youth group—Gloria Morven, Olive Strand, Olive Strachan, Rose Collison and Shirley Yurgensen.

Children of all ages contributed to the program, which was presented to a packed house. The program included songs, dialogues and recitations traditional to Christmas.

Santa Claus, whose appearance was greeted with cheers, distributed Christmas presents to all the children.

POOR BRAKES

WELLINGTON, N.Z., ©—The Transport Department of New Zealand recently began a brake-testing campaign. Out of 700 vehicles tested in the first week 106 failed to pass the test, showing that more than one in seven was unable to pull up in 40 feet from 20 miles per hour.

LETTERBOX

PROBLEMS OF NORTH

Editor, Daily News:

Before starting to deal with Alaska problems in this letter I must relate an incident that occurred some years ago at Skagway. We were waiting for the train to start on its way to Whitehorse when a sordid conversation with me. The man was over six feet tall and had a huge pack on his back. His conversation, although cultured, was somewhat cynical. Without a smile and casting his eyes toward the sky, he exclaimed: "Pal, it's like this. Alaska used to be a cow that gave a lot of milk. Now the cow has gone dry and trouble starts." The sordid conversation has stuck with me all these years.

In the Daily News recently the interview you had with Governor Gruening was very interesting to me. The Governor is working hard to improve conditions for his people.

It would surely help the people of Alaska if Prince Rupert were made a shipping and trading port for them. Too long have they been kept under a commercial dictatorship or mon-

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opply. The course of a century should be available to the people to exploit as they see fit and to the best advantage. Economic considerations should come before political arguments. If this was fully recognized, there would be more peace in the world.

Geographically Alaska is an appendage of Canada. The Alaskans fully understand this fact. Life is hard enough in the north without having to put up with the whims of a transportation monopoly. It is in the interests of Alaskans to get the conveniences they can from both sides.

Furthermore, if Alaska were organized as a self-governing country, it would relieve the

tension between United States and Russia in diplomatic matters.

In great areas of the world capitalistic exchange, discount etc. included. We have a lot in that respect from the

When you live in the you must have the blankets and food that life. To a certain extent semi-tropical states can cope with these.

We certainly need the people can make a I am an old man but still interested in the and welfare of this north try.

RALPH HERR

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