

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 Carriers, Per Week, 20c; Per Month, 75c; Per Year, \$8.00
By Mail, Per Month, 50c; Per Year, \$5.00

Chamber On Power

THE PRINCE RUPERT Chamber of Commerce, in a comprehensive and forthright resolution suggesting action to be taken by the city council with respect to the Northern British Columbia Power Co. in the current power failure, has not minced matters. It is a forceful and legal sounding document, which summarizes, we would say, the existing popular line of opinion of an indignant community which has suffered extensively in many ways as a result of the long shortage of electricity.

Without appearing to pass judgment upon the technical and legal aspects of the situation which has arisen, we would say that the Chamber of Commerce has rendered a real service to the community in this dissertation upon the power situation. It has brought clarification to the search for an early and permanent rectification of a situation many aspects of which has been confused by indignant discussion.

WHO IS STEADFAST?

AS LATE as last year, Klaus Fuchs continued to deliver atom bomb secrets to Soviet Russia. Since his arrest he stated in his defence that he has a "split personality." In other words he might be described as a "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

A trusted and valued servant of the British government and already a man of brilliant scientific attainments, Fuchs committed betrayals. This is nothing new in international affairs. It is not uncommon in wars.

Not long ago it became known that Russian agents in Canada had secured from certain persons in the employment of the government, highly confidential data.

It all goes to show that to look for a hundred percent fidelity at all times and by everybody, is perhaps a little too much to expect. Unfortunately, yet there it is

ROBERT GORDON

WE WILL REMEMBER our good friend, the late Robert Gordon, for his unbounded optimism and contagious good cheer. Like the rest of us he had had his ups and downs, and he did a lot of physical suffering too, but he always saw the bright side and radiated happiness. Good times or bad, he was never downhearted and his hundreds of friends went to his store as much to get a tonic of his perpetual enthusiasm as to buy his goods. If he was ever pessimistic or critical, it was mighty few people who ever knew it.

"Bob" Gordon can be rated as one of Prince Rupert's "good" citizens and, as such, he will be greatly missed. He was one of those outstanding personalities who soon won not only the respect but the affectionate esteem of all with whom he came in contact whether in business or socially.

Generous and sympathetic by nature, he did much in a quiet way to advance the interests of the city and his loss will be widely mourned.

DOUKHOBORS

DOUKHOBORS have solemnly sworn that never again will they be trouble makers. Time alone will tell how far this can be believed.

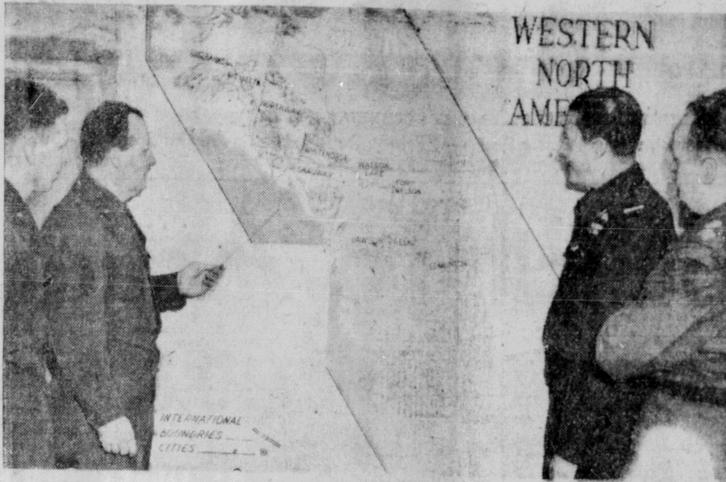
Of the total that came to this country from Russia, long before the revolution, it cannot be said by any means that all required attention from the police authorities although their peculiar practices were new in Canada. It may be said that a proportion, who were capable agriculturists, developed into good settlers.

Nevertheless, among some, difficulties kept cropping up from time to time and if these present malcontents do as they say they will, Canada will be rewarded for her patience and forbearance. These people, different in many ways, have shown that they can be a worthwhile part of the population, if they want to, and the Dominion has the right to expect that now is the time to "want to."

IT WON'T BE LONG

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW! Zero has returned to where it belongs. Snow is gradually and decently disappearing. The air has more of a familiar softness, and the murmur of occasional rain, seems akin to the voice of a friend you've missed for a while.

Yes, it won't be so very long now. This wallowing through slush, this estimating the width of the deep looking pool, this being splashed by a swift moving car, this slipping, sliding and stamping, this disappearance of a loose rubber—all the little annoyances that tire and sour—will fade away as days lengthen and the business of rationing is promptly relegated to permanent exile.



SWEETBRIAR CONFERENCE—Canadian and U.S. officers study a map of the Alaska highway as they complete plans at Whitehorse, Y.T., for Exercise Sweetbriar in which joint Canadian-U.S. forces will attempt to dislodge an "enemy" attacking from Alaska. Left to right are: Col. G. McCollum, U.S. Army; Brig.-Gen. G. Stewart, U.S. Army; Air Commodore Martin Costello, R.C.A.F. (C. P. Photo)

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

In future, the Japanese fishing fleet will not be found in sizeable numbers in British Columbia waters. That's not going to cause any serious disappointment on this side of the Pacific.

The Progressive Conservative Association of London (Ont.) recommended at the recent annual meeting that the word "Progressive" be dropped from the party's name, and that it revert to its historic title "Conservative." Had this been done years ago, it might have helped. Some folks have been hinting "progress" was more in the opposite direction.

Terrace is to stage a "Klondike Night" next month, and already some of the modernized and cultivated beards look distinctly superior. This is a splendid winter in which to wangle whiskers, anyway. Thoroughly developed facial foliage can be a shield against bitter gales, splashes of rain and snow, and Terrace has had plenty of each.

Like every city, Vancouver has unsolved murders. The press offers substantial cash rewards for "tips." Some one knows. And what of the passing of time? Is it harder or easier on conscience?

Bank of Canada Annual Report

OTTAWA—Graham F. Tower's, Governor of the Bank of Canada, said in his annual report that there was a sharp contrast between the trends of the Canadian and United States economies in 1949. The report was presented to Finance Minister Abbott.

Mr. Towers said that changes in United States business conditions normally exercise a very strong influence on the Canadian situation. In the report, Mr. Towers said how Canada had not been affected by a recession in the United States during the first half of 1949. He said that one of the reasons why Canada was not affected was the fact that the recession was of short duration. Any recession over a long period would affect Canada.

How I Subdued Wild Fiery Itch—

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Labor Council On Power Deal

Prince Rupert Trades and Labor Council, also had its say on the current power situation in a letter, read at last night's council meeting, which urged the council not to consider a new franchise with the Northern British Columbia Power Co. until it is satisfied that the power company has lived up to the terms of the existing franchise. The resolution was passed at the regular monthly meeting of the Trades and Labor Council which was held last week.

Verna Oulton "Miss Legion"

SMITHERS—Miss Verna Oulton, popular seventeen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Oulton of Smithers, will represent the Canadian Legion of Smithers when she competes against other locally sponsored beauties for the "Miss Smithers" title on March 17 at the Junior Chamber of Commerce's St. Patrick's Day Dance and Beauty Contest.

Miss Oulton two years ago was voted Flag Day Queen by the Smithers Elks and last year was one of the pretty drum major-ettes who led the colorful Fall Fair Parade at Smithers. If chosen as "Miss Smithers," Miss Oulton will then compete for the title "Miss Northern B.C." at the "Spring Frolic of 1950" to be held at Smithers on May 4 and 5 under the auspices of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Contestants for this contest are being entered from numerous points throughout North and Central British Columbia.



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JOHNNY'S Jottings

Ah, for the breath of spring! Really don't know myself if the weather we are presently enjoying is Spring. Laden but melting snow and rushing, gurgling streams of water take me back to the prairies. To someone who has never stepped outside the borders of this vast province, the pure unadulterated spirit of this season cannot be truly captured.

Many advantages exist by living on the prairies. When spring descends, there is the uncontrollable urge to travel but not more than the happy moment of throwing away the burdensome weight of long flannels. Of course, Prince Rupert residents can say a prairie winter has been experienced, and when the mild air and rain came, even prairiemen enjoyed themselves.

Many souls from Saskatchewan and Alberta came to B.C. for winter. And literally speaking, they sure did. Arriving here with a raincoat, I looked forward to warm, rain infested days when a heavy winter overcoat is but a dream. After a little while my dream arrived by mail.

But now, after a vacation, the balmy weather has returned

PILES

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SIXTH STREET AND THIRD AVENUE

and things are back to normal again—except perhaps the citizens' tempers which hold some sort of grudge against a power company. We can now all happily view our roads again, but drivers no doubt were content to keep them covered. If that was only possible during the tourist season. Not that the roads are in bad shape, mind you, because you do not hear everyone uttering foul words—only drivers.

And in ending, an ode concerning a current problem:
God save our city power,
We want it every hour,
God save our power.

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