

Saturday, October 28, 1950

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and northern and central British Columbia
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G. A. HUNTER, Managing Editor. H. G. PERRY, Managing Director
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Freedom of the Press

OF ALL PEOPLE concerned with the freedom of the press, none has a more difficult task than the weekly newspaper editor, says a prize-winning editorial in a Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association contest. Much of it is also applicable to the smaller daily newspaper situation.

True, the editor lives in a democratic community (and the smaller the community the more democratic it is) but this complicates, it does not simplify, freedom of the press.

Under dictatorships, the editor can always consult the censor or the local party boss if he is in doubt on what should be printed. As there is no freedom of the press, he does not have to worry about it.

In Army newspapers, the adjutant-general exercises its official censorship. Again there is no freedom, and the editor, generally a serviceman, has but to obey orders.

The editor of the big city newspaper, guarded by legal experts from fear of libel and by the publishers on policy, can print most of the news he receives and express opinions without fear of reproach. His circulation is large, the majority of his readers he does not know. His comments in the editorial columns are entirely impersonal as far as they are concerned. His authority is aloof and inviolate.

But your weekly newspaper editor knows most of his readers by sight, even if they are not his or his family's personal friends. The pressure on him to restrain freedom of the press, however unwittingly done, is constant. The pressure is increased by the fact that the editor often knows personally and sympathizes with somebody in trouble, whose case he has been asked "as a friend" not to report. If the editor deletes unpleasant references to other persons in the "Letters to Editor" column, the writer of the letter will ask him: "Where is the freedom of the press?"

The difficult part of it is that all these urgencies are so natural. It is natural to wish to shield a relative or friend. It is natural for a person with what he considers a genuine grievance to wish to give vent to it publicly.

Whatever he does he will be praised by some and censured by others, not remotely but to his face by people with whom he comes into daily contact.

Personal relations thus complicate freedom of the press for the weekly editor, and often he will be tempted to abandon a principle for the sake of getting along with others. But he does so at the peril of the freedom he is sworn to uphold and at the peril of his newspaper's reputation for integrity.

He cannot do better than remember the words of the late C. P. Scott, for 57 years editor of the Manchester Guardian:

Fundamentally, journalism implies honesty, cleanliness, courage, fairness and a sense of duty to the reader and the community. The newspaper is of necessity something of a monopoly, and its first duty is to shun the temptations of a monopoly. Neither in what it gives, nor in what it does not give, nor in the mode of presentation, must the unclouded face of truth suffer wrong. Comment is free but facts are sacred. The voice of opponents, no less than that of friends, has a right to be heard. Comment is also justly subject to self-imposed restraint. It is well to be frank. It is even better to be fair."

Because most editors acknowledge these principles, a free press has rightly become a main bulwark of democracy. Those individuals who suffer or feel aggrieved because this freedom is maintained might well console themselves with the fact that the principle of freedom of the press is far more important ultimately to them and their descendants than any inconvenience or blow to self-pride they experience temporarily because of it.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FOR TODAY

"Can two walk together except they be agreed?" — Amos 3:3

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CREDIT BUREAU OF PRINCE RUPERT

Services in the Church

SATURDAY SERMON

Sermon by Rev. E. A. Wright, D.D., First Presbyterian Church

The religious life oscillates between two poles—the inner life of thought and devotion, and the outer life of service. Without the twofold emphasis which this oscillation involves there can be no deep, satisfying or satisfactory religion. The inner life of devotion may be called "the life in God" the outer life of service "the life for God." And because God is both within us and without us—two truths called respectively by philosophers—the Divine Imminence and the Divine Transcendence—the life of God in the soul must also be the life for God in the world. To know God is to seek to do His will. To seek to do God's will is to come to know Him.

Our Lord Himself revealed in His teaching, as well as in His life, how inseparable are these two aspects of Divine truth. He who said "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," said also: "He that willeth to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God." He who said, "The Kingdom of God is within you," said also: "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord! Lord! shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." And He who, speaking of His own unique life in God, said according to the St. John's gospel: "I and the Father are one," also said: "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to accomplish His work."

It is significant that the last utterance of our Lord immediately follows His saying "I have meat to eat that ye know not of." The spiritual sustenance which comes from intimate fellowship with God is of the same essential quality as that which comes from active service for God. Thus communion with God, while separable in thought, is integrally conjoined in experience. At least they were so united in the experience of our Lord. "What God hath joined let no man put asunder."

In the tea room were Mrs. D. Gable, Mrs. William McLean, Mrs. Robert Kelsey and Mrs. M. Olsen, members of the evening branch. Serving were Mrs. F. Baldwin, Mrs. A. E. Carlson and Mrs. D. Pearson. Cashier in the tea room was Mrs. M. Hauser.



DEFENCE BUILDER — R. G. (Dick) Johnson, 37-year-old general manager of the Canadian Construction Association, soon will handle million-dollar contracts. He has been appointed construction consultant and purchasing agent for the government's \$100,000,000 defence-building program. (CP PHOTO)

St. Peter's W.A. Fall Bazaar

Many callers patronized St Peter's W.A. fall bazaar Thursday afternoon. The affair was opened by Mrs. J. B. Gibson. The guests were received by Mrs. A. J. Croxford, president of the afternoon branch.

The following members of the afternoon branch were in charge of stalls:

Sewing—Mrs. D. Sievert, Mrs. V. Morrison, Mrs. J. W. Moorehouse.

Candy—Mrs. J. Prince, Mrs. D. Owens, Mrs. W. D. Griffiths.

Home cooking—Mrs. W. Davidson, Mrs. M. Viereck, Mrs. W. B. Skinner.

The evening branch took care of the variety stall. Mrs. J. McLean and Mrs. Wif McLean were in charge.

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Organists: Mrs. E. J. Smith, John Currie.

October 29, 1950

Morning Worship—11 o'clock.
Evening Service—7:30 p.m.
We extend a cordial invitation to visitors to worship with us.
"Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy."



Charles Plunkett, 64, of Vancouver, may become the 16th Lord of Louth, a title originated by Henry VIII, according to an announcement from London. Engineer for the Canadian National Railways at Port Mann, B.C., he told reporters he was too busy to discuss the matter when his picture was taken. (CP PHOTO)

AUCTION SALE

Timber sale X10225
There will be offered for sale at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 30th, 1950, in the office of the Forest Ranger at Ocean Falls, B.C., the Licence X10225, to cut 5,240,000 f.m.c. of Hemlock, Balsam, Cedar, and Spruce on an area comprising of vacant Crown land situated on the north western portion of Lake Island, Range 3 Coast Land District.

Three years will be allowed for removal of timber.

Provided anyone unable to attend the auction in person may submit tender to be opened at the hour of auction and treated as one bid.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Minister of Forests, Victoria, B.C., or the District Forester, Prince Rupert, B.C.

(H)

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