

Canadian Legion No. 27

Local Man Had Main Contract

The main contractors for the remodelling and building of the new Canadian Legion premises and the "Legion 27 Club" were Greer and Bridden Contractors. Both Jimmy Greer and Bernard Bridden served in the Royal Canadian Navy (V.R.) as ship-

wrights for three years and, on their discharge in 1946, decided to open their present construction business.

They now operate a modern up-to-date shop with a working crew of more than twenty tradesmen.

As members of the Legion both Greer and Bridden are very proud of the beautiful new Legion Club which they had an opportunity of constructing and remodelling.

History and Service, Canadian Legion Here

(John S. Wilson, Zone Representative)

The opening of the new Canadian Legion building marks another forward step in the progress of the local branch of the organization, an organization which is in turn a constituent member of the largest service organization in the world, namely the British Empire Service League. The new building is a big

step from the original quarters occupied by the first war veterans' club and is worthy of the objectives and high ideals of the League.

This would seem to be an opportune time to refer to the origin and development of the Canadian Legion. To many its activities are known only as being connected with the annual observance of Remembrance Day. Actually its main activities are carried on daily, without any publicity. In numberless ways the Legion means the provision of daily food, clothing, medical services and even limited comforts for thousands who otherwise would be without these necessities. These might well ask themselves if this country had been worth fighting for, a country that in peace could all too easily forget the plight of many of those who preserved it. This the Legion is pledged to see shall not happen. It does it in two ways.

One way is through the hundreds of branches throughout the Dominion. Through these it learns of the daily or changing problems the veterans face and by personal knowledge and understanding often solves the problem. The second way is by presenting to Parliament its views. These views over the years have been based on well considered recommendations and the presentations to the governments

have been forcefully but reasonably made. Perhaps the best tribute to the work of the Legion is the readiness with which all governments have considered them.

THE BEGINNING

The Canadian Legion itself began in 1925. Following the First Great War many different veteran organizations sprang up, all with the objective of ensuring sympathetic treatment of veterans. Some were promoted by individuals for their selfish ends but most were sincerely operated. Unfortunately the different groups differed with one another and disunity grew up. One result was that much energy and thought were given to outmanoeuvring rival groups and consequently the ex-service men were neglected. To the late Earl Haig, formerly commander-in-chief of the British forces in France, came the realization that such actions spelt disaster for all. With sure vision and a genius for leadership he set out to organize one empire-wide association. He did so and the British Empire Service League was formed. He visited Canada in the course of his crusade and in Winnipeg in 1925 the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League was formed. This year sees the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding.

In Prince Rupert the veterans were a branch of the Great War Veterans' Association and under various presidents had a success-

ful record. Among the early leaders were Fred Pyle, William Denning, James M. Campbell, J. F. Hutchison, S. B. Marshall and C. L. Youngman. In 1926 Mr. Youngman and Mr. Hutchison went as delegates to Vancouver and attended a meeting at which the Great War Veterans merged with the Canadian Legion.

There are many others who as presidents since then have given of their time and talent in the responsible and onerous position of president of the local branch of the Legion. Among these are S. A. Bird, M. M. Lamb, W. J. Rance, James Smith, Jack Preece, Hugh Killin, Wm. M. Brown, D. G. Borland, Harry Breen, Dr. R. C. Bamford, V. G. Houston, Ralph Smith and James Nicoll. Many of these occupied the chair for several terms and it is impossible to estimate the amount of service they gave. A particularly interesting election, however, was the one in 1948 when a Second World War veteran, Ralph P. Smith, was elected president.

During his terms of office his work was of the highest calibre and the future of the great organization may be safely left to these younger veterans. The tradition and records are secure in their hands.

I should like to refer very briefly to one or two of the many contributions the Legion has made to the community. The cenotaph was erected as a result of their efforts. The annual observance of Poppy Day is their solemn obligation. Then when the Second World War broke out the loyal branch placed all its resources at the disposal of the services. It was in the Canadian Legion building that the first concerts and entertainments for the troops were held. Later, when other accommodation was available, the entertainments were given elsewhere but the Legion were first and gave full service to the end.

A less spectacular but probably more valuable contribution to the welfare of the service men

was the provision of the Canadian Legion Education Services. These were after taken over by the Dominion Government. The value of this work is readily conceded by the tens of thousands who took advantage of the programme for it prepared the service men for taking their full part on returning to civil life.

NOW—A NEW BUILDING

And now there is a new building. As the branch launches upon a new era in the well-equipped and beautifully situated

hall it will be able to offer wider service to its ex-service men and dependents. It is a well and courage. They are "taking up the hands" will not wear. As Zone Representative to the Prince Rupert congratulations and of the Provincial Co. I would like to express my appreciation for the honor conferred upon continued on

Well Done

CANADIAN LEGION B.E.S.L.
BRANCH 27 Prince Rupert

YOU HAVE PROVIDED
OUR CITY WITH AN-
OTHER FINE BUILDING
OF WHICH THEY CAN
BE JUSTLY PROUD

Woodbuilt Products

(Tom Christie)

Congratulations

And Best Wishes

To The

Members Of The

Prince Rupert Branch

Canadian Legion B.E.S.L.

On Opening Their New Headquarters

May Continued Success Attend
All Their Ventures

Northern B.C. Power Co. Ltd.

SUB-CONTRACTORS

Electrical and Refrigeration Installations
NEW LEGION BUILDING

MEET THE EXECUTIVE—

Here Are Men Who Lead Legion In Prince Rupert

Honorary President..... Col. Cy. W. Peck, V.C., D.S.O.
Honorary 1st Vice-Pres. Lieut. Col. J. MacGregor, V.C., M.C., D.S.O.
Honorary 2nd Vice-Pres. Col. S. D. Johnston, M.C., V.D.
Honorary 3rd Vice-Pres. Commander J. D. McRae, R.C.N.

President..... James Nicoll
Immediate Past President..... Ralph P. Smith
First Vice-President..... Roderick M. MacLeod
Second Vice-President..... Alexander Haig
Secretary-Manager..... Philip M. Ray

Executive Committee—Wm. H. Murray, A. M. Hnrst, C. Anderson, Graham Alexander, Victor Duncan, Neil Cameron, J. S. Greer, Mrs. Margaret, E. Smith and Immediate Past President Ralph P. Smith.

Chaplain Rev. Chas. L. Lomas (Hon. Chaplain to the Forces, Imp.)
Sergeant-at-Arms..... Jas. Taylor
Zone Commander..... John S. Wilson

Congratulations . . .

TO PRINCE RUPERT'S

The
Canadian
Legion

The
AND
Legion "27"
Club

on the Completion of their Modern New Building

We were pleased to install
the Plumbing and Heating

Saanich Plumbing and Heating