

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and all communities comprising northern and central British Columbia (Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa)

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### P.G.E. Extension

AFTER MANY YEARS, the province has decided upon the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Start of construction from Quesnel north to Prince George will be made this year with further extension into the Peace River to follow later. The action is decided upon following failure to interest the federal government or either of the big railway companies and apparent absence of sound offers from other quarters.

Extension of the Pacific Great Eastern was bound to come sooner or later as it could not be left as it was—a line starting nowhere and ending nowhere and a continuing liability on the public with no hope of ever paying its way in its present state.

Now that the government is committed on extending the line immediately from Quesnel to Prince George, the sooner they get on with the job of driving on to the Peace River the better. Then Prince Rupert will have a chance to get in on the heavy traffic from the north—wheat, coal and such like—the opening up of which has long been admitted as being the economic salvation of the line.

Possibly the government has Prince Rupert in mind as a potential coast outlet for heavy Peace River commodities when it adopts the idea of connecting Squamish with Vancouver by highway instead of extending the railway on the south. Of course Squamish will also have its possibilities of development as a port.

Of the several big projects outlined by Premier Johnson in his three-year \$89,000,000 provincial development plan, the Pacific Great Eastern commitment is of outstanding importance and it is of particular interest to us in that it is an admission of the immediate necessity of opening up and developing of the north country.

The town of Prince George is getting a big modicum of attention now. We in this western rim of the central interior may expect to receive some large scale attention too. Meantime we are glad for Prince George, realizing that what is good for the budding interior metropolis must also redound to our benefit in the general development of the north.

### VALENTINES RUN TRUE TO FORM

YEAR AFTER YEAR, in this so-called hard-boiled practical age, the good old hearts-and-flowers tradition breaks out on St. Valentine's Day. This year's Valentines are if anything mushier and lazier than ever and the sentiments even more delicate and touching. All done up in "buttons and bows"—that's the style for the 1949 billets-doux.

Perhaps it is all a part of the more open display of sentiment these days, reflected in croony melodies and romantic film close-ups.

The connection between St. Valentine and sweet romance was not always so close. In fact there has been a confusing number of saints and priests named Valentine. However, the one traditionally associated with today's exchanging of love messages is Valentine of Rome who was martyred 1672 years ago.

On the eve of the old Roman feast day of Februa Juno, St. Valentine was clubbed, stoned and beheaded at Rome's Flaminian Gate. The feast celebrated the Lupercalia, revels in honor of Faunus, when boys chose their partners by lot.

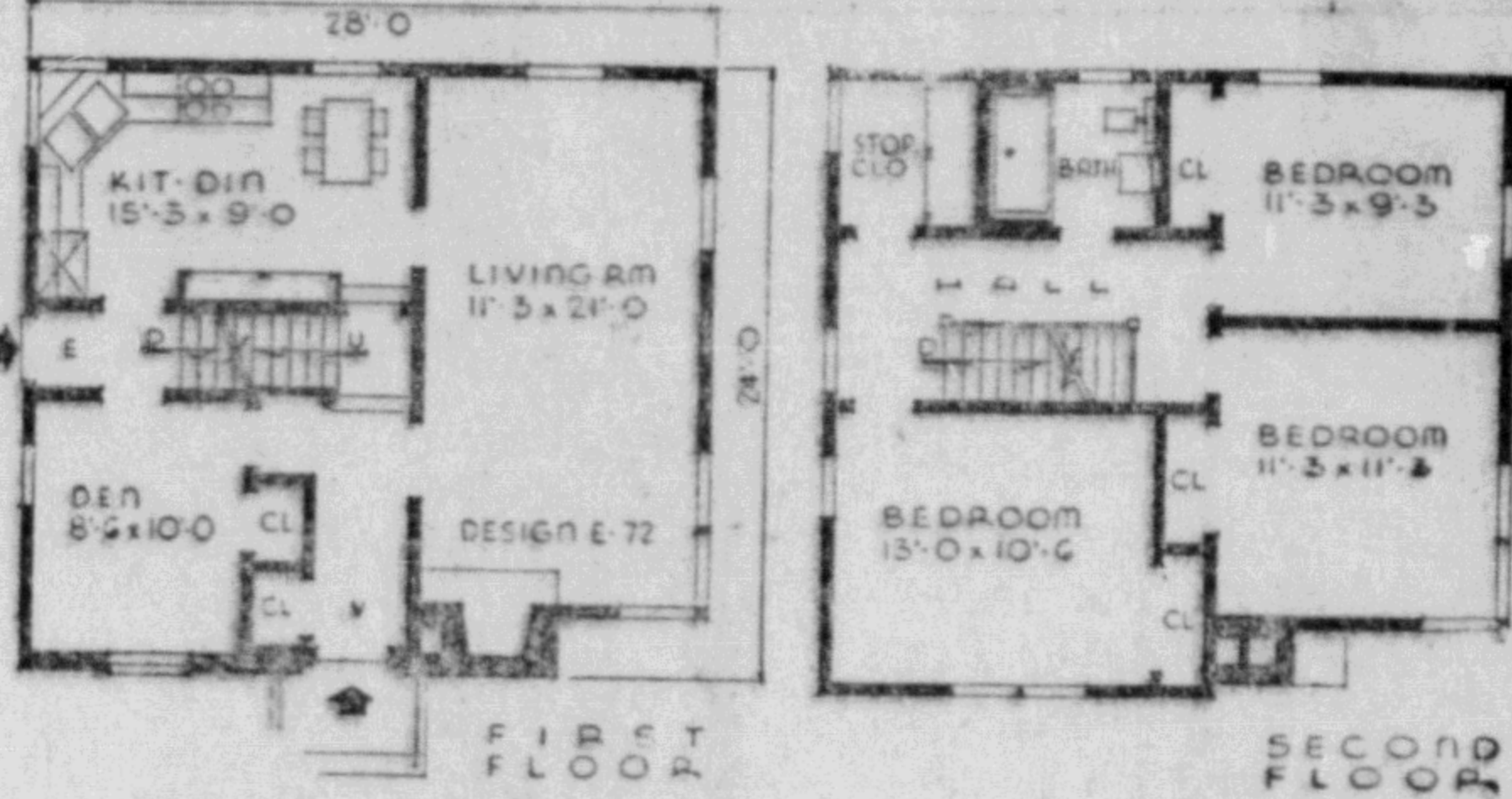
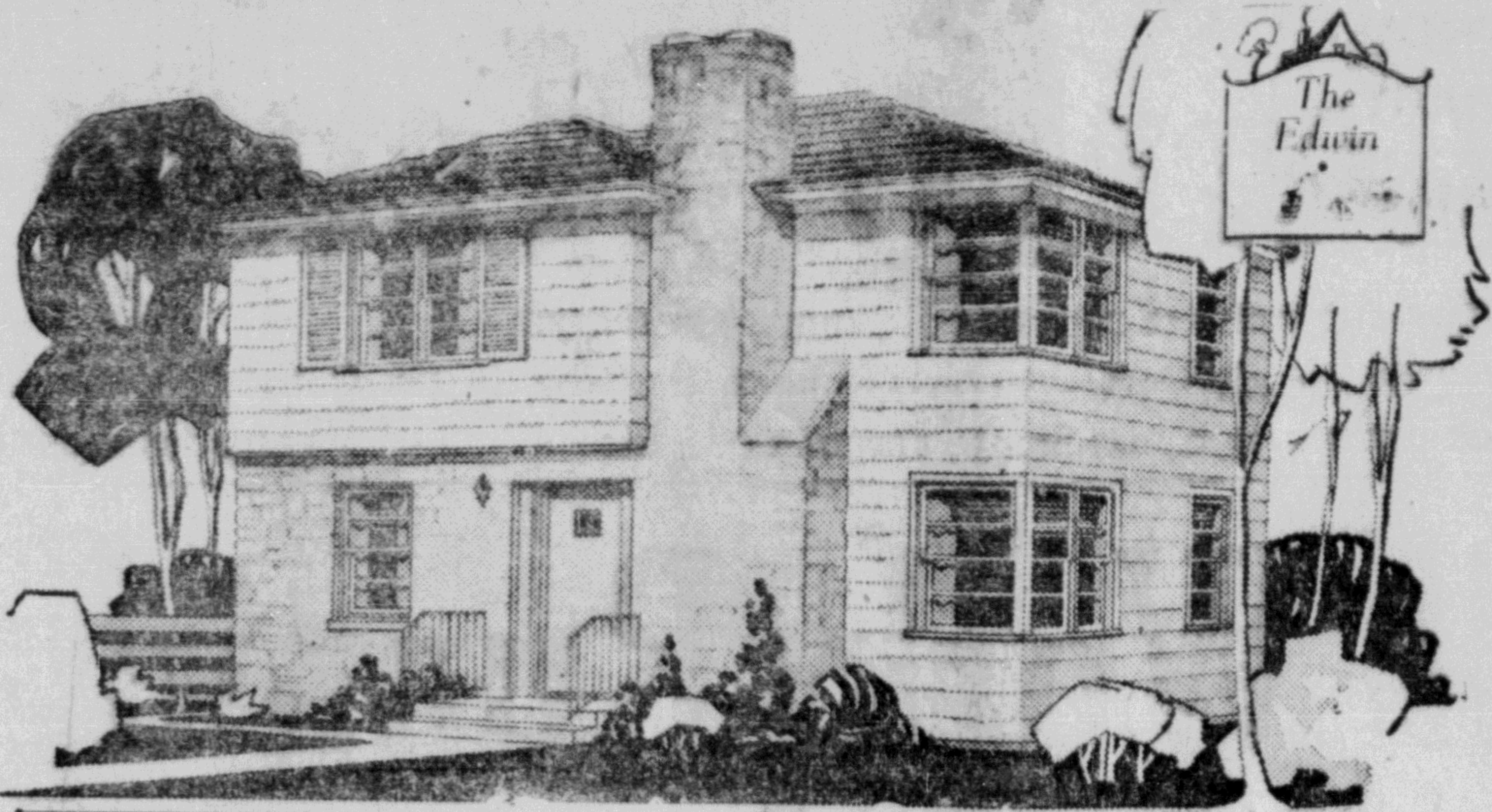
Faunus was the god of cattle and fertility in general and, according to legend, a cave called the Lupercal on one of the seven hills of Rome was sacred to him.

Valentine died for condemning the pagan gods and all ceremonies connected with them. It is thought that this torture and death became a part of the wild celebrations of 270 A.D.

It is perhaps ironical that the survival of pagan rites should coincide with martyred Valentine's day. But as paganism gave way to Christianity, it is thought the early fathers saw it would be impossible to abolish all old customs. Gradually through Christian influences these old celebrations became submerged in Christian festivals.

But that's all history, and some of it conjectural at that. What really matters is the sentiment that comes with the lace heart or beribboned love token. Dripping with romance or strictly friendly, they all say, "Will you be my Valentine?"

DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS BRING RESULTS



**THE DURWOOD** is a cottage-type, story-and-a-half home with a one-car attached garage. This home has a bedroom on the first floor, making it convenient to leave the second floor temporarily unfinished. When completed, the second floor plans include two bedrooms, one 10' x 10'6" and the other, 9' x 12'6".

The plan of The Durwood provides easy access to all rooms. There is a large dining space in the compactly-cabineted modern kitchen; and convenient connection to the garage. There are closets near both entrances; a linen closet on each floor and large wardrobes in all of the bedrooms as well as a storage closet in the garage. Construction is of frame, with an

extra fire-proof wall between the house and attached garage. The exterior of the house is siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle. The dimensions of the main body of the house are 32 feet wide and 26 feet deep. The net area, without the garage, is 799 square feet; and volume is 19,987 cubic feet including the basement.

### PUBS - THEN AND NOW

#### Reminiscences of Carefree Britain Half a Century Ago

The sale and consumption of liquor appears to be restless, as a public question. It was urged in Prince Rupert not so long ago that there be a greater measure of temperance. There was particular reference to the outlay of money for drink, and nothing but drink! Quite a sizeable sum, in fact! It cannot be

said there is entire satisfaction, so far as British Columbia is concerned, with the system under which sales are made. One can hear criticism and read complaints. And now comes a blast directed at public houses, not in British Columbia, but a long way off. British pubs have been slammed, and letters appear in the press defending them. In other words, the critics, in more ways than one, are described as all wet.

We spent a summer in England once. Times must have changed since then. No one worried about Russia, and the south coast was a pleasant part of the world to be in. Weather was good and so was the beer which everyone consumed as a matter of course.

People were easy to meet, and the lone Canadian received many kindnesses. Some were prone to inquire:

"You are a Yankee, are you not?"  
 "No, my home is in Canada."  
 "But why do you guess, so often? What makes you say 'guess'?"

Perhaps there was a forty second cousin somewhere in the population of Dover, or Hythe, or Folkestone, or Hastings, or Sandgate. Paternal forbears had moved from the south coast to America a few centuries before.

The old town of Dover one remembers best, built close to the sea and with the shores of France sighted on clear days, away in the dim distance. More than forty years ago—it may be there yet—there was a long promenade paralleling the beach. Life seemed leisurely in Dover. Cars were not unknown but there were few indeed. As a rule, people did not rush. Daily concerts by a military band in

a public park helped entertain one.

Dover Castle overlooked one end of the long breezy walk, and miles away, in the opposite direction, loomed Shakespear's Cliff, with endless murmur of surf and a favorite spot for a plunge. Steamers ran regularly between Dover and Calais. The one we travelled on once was called the Port Warden. But that's another story.

It was no effort to become accustomed to the daily brew. There were numerous pubs, and patrons, generally speaking, had their favorite resorts. England, in 1900, gave no evidence of being afflicted with uneasiness and anxieties affecting liquid refreshment. There it was if you had the inclination, and the price, which wasn't much. How about a snack? For a trifling sum one could try the benefits of a thick sandwich and foaming beaker of stout. Somewhat doubtful if it could be duplicated today for the money.

Summing it all up, and, as far as a Canuck a long way from home could see, the situation pertaining to liquor was handled with common sense and judgment. Doubtless, there was intoxication. But, it was taken care of. Displays of exuberance seemed very infrequent. All the pubs had bar-maids who knew and performed their duties acceptably. Drinking was not a license to cause others discomfort or embarrassment. The whole atmosphere was one of quietness and good order—sort of cross between a club, one's home and a place of business. But what it is today, after the lapse of nearly fifty years is not for the writer to say—W.J.R.

Classified Ads Bring Results

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 324 2nd Ave. (Near C.F.P.R.)

### HEALTH NURSES EXTEND VISITS

Port Edward and Digby Island being included—Monthly Report

Public health nurses from the Prince Rupert Unit are to extend their visitations to Port Edward and Digby Island on a regular monthly basis, arrangements for these visits now being near completion, the monthly report of the Unit for January discloses.

Child health clinics in the city are being increasingly patronized by mothers with their children of pre-school age. The attendance is now 26 and during the month of January eleven immunizations were given.

Health in the schools of the city was good in January. No cases of communicable diseases were reported.

City property, the unit says, was inspected during the month and found to be in "fairly good condition."

The six-inch sewer on Third Avenue from Third Street to Sixth Street, which has been in a state of collapse, is being replaced by a 12-inch line which will serve as a combination storm and sanitary sewer.

Demolition of two houses, condemned by the city, has been completed.

A new dairy got under way at Prince Rupert during the month, the report says, and, as one of his first projects, a newly appointed sanitarian at Smithers, T. Mayoh, is making close inspection, with a view to improvements, in the milk supply to Prince Rupert.

During the past month the annual meeting of the Union Board of Health for Prince Rupert district was held, officers being elected and plans laid for the coming year.

Also during the month a full staff meeting was held with Miss D. Brown, the public health nurse from Smithers, and T. Mayoh, the sanitarian from Smithers, in attendance. Provincial and local policies were discussed and the senior nurse, Miss Joyce Leslie, reported on a meeting she had attended in Victoria.

During the month the senior nurse made her first trip of the year to the interior, visiting Smithers, Hazelton and Terrace.

**MISNOMER**  
 The La Plata River of South America is not really a river, but the estuary formed by the Parana and Uruguay Rivers.

**UNION STEAMSHIPS**

VANCOUVER - VICTORIA SEATTLE  
 Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Camosun  
 Sunday, 10 p.m., Coquitlam

ALICE ARM, STEWART AND PORT SIMPSON  
 Sunday, 11 p.m.

FOR SOUTH QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS  
 s.s. Coquitlam, Jan. 23, 10 p.m.

FOR NORTH QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS  
 s.s. Coquitlam, February 4 and 18, 10 p.m.

FRANK J. SKINNER  
 Prince Rupert Agent  
 Third Ave. Phone 568

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**PRIVATE CITIZEN**—This might be a picture of any harried middle-aged tax-payer but not so long ago he was the man who decided how much of our incomes would go into the federal government. Yes, it's James Lorimer Ilesy former finance minister who is now a successful corporation lawyer in Montreal. He says he is just as busy as when the economic affairs of the nation rested on his shoulders. (C. P. Photo)

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 Open from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

We Specialize in Chinese Dishes  
**CHOP SUEY - CHOW MEIN**  
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**"ISRAEL NOW A FACT"**—Britain's foreign minister, Ernest Bevin, who said that the Labor government is not going to shift its policy toward Israel but added: "The state of Israel is now a fact," is shown leaving a special cabinet meeting held at No. 10 Downing Street, Hugh Dalton, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is in the rear.

**EXPLOSIVES IN DEMAND**  
 The cement industry has used as much as 23,000,000 pounds of explosives in a single year in its quarrying operations.

**DISCOVERED ON SUN**  
 Helium was discovered on the sun before the element was located on earth.

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LOWEST PRICES  
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 Denby Brothers & Co. Ltd.  
 Imperial Wiping Rag Co. Ltd.

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APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR 1949:

- CAMP MANAGERS
- BOAT CREWS
- ONE SKIPPER

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**RUPERT MARINE REALTY**  
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