

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.)
Published every afternoon except Sunday by
Prince Rupert Daily News Ltd., 3rd Avenue, Prince Rupert, British Columbia.
G. A. HUNTER, Managing Editor, H. G. PERRY, Managing Director.
MEMBER OF CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION, CANADIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
City Carrier, Per Week, 20c; Per Month, 75c; Per Year, \$8.00.
By Mail, Per Month, 50c; Per Year, \$5.00.

Laissez-Faire Deadly

SELF-SATISFACTION and willingness to change are possibly the most serious brakes on the wheels of progress and service.

It is possibly human nature to rest content and leave well enough alone if things seem to be going along smoothly. The person who will stir things up, introduce new ideas or do anything to disturb the smooth routine becomes unpopular.

The resentment against change is to be seen in Prince Rupert as well as other places, particularly among the better established who may not realize that laissez-faire is the decay that eats away the foundations and causes the structure to fall.

Decadence, national, community or individual, is the result of continued inclination to follow the line of least resistance, unwillingness to follow new and modern trends, adopt new ideas, keep pace with the times.

We can and do make mistakes if we take chances or experiment modernistically, however, we cannot win and keep up to-date without some of the speculative spirit. As has often been said, there is no standing still. We must sustain our effort to keep advancing. To stand still is to fall back by being overtaken.

HERVEY ALLEN

HERVEY ALLEN, author of "Anthony Adverse" died this week in Florida. His novel was, to the first Great War, something similar to "Forever Amber" in the latter's relationship to the second. Each is lascivious. Had there been no wars, it is not at all unreasonable to think "Anthony Adverse" and "Forever Amber" would never have been written. Each had to have a general background of strife and stress on a colossal scale, perverted morals and an acceptance of a way of life and ethics that frankly defied criticism and laughed at virtue.

Small wonder that these stories, born in the heat of a war-crazed world, and presenting emotions and passions harmonizing more or less with the times, enjoyed vast success. The fundamentals of human kind were drawn with a ruthlessness, drama and truth, that compelled attention everywhere.

AFTER STALIN WHAT?

THE COMPLETE ABASEMENT of the great Russian nation to one man, in the person of Stalin, is tragic. It is at moments ludicrous. But it is certainly important. It is important to realize that the "Communism" of 1949 is not Communism at all in any real sense of the word. It is something which would have drawn from Marx and Lenin all their scorn for a thing so false and so evil. It is a system of complete grovelling servility to the will and whims of a semi-divine Emperor, a God-Emperor surrounded by his pretorian guards.

What, one keeps on wondering, will happen when the all-wise, all-powerful God-Emperor dies?

Mr. and Mrs. Fred LaSette returned to Queen Charlotte City on today's plane after spending Christmas in the city with Mr. and Mrs. John Linney, Summit Apartments.

Mrs. H. Long, who has been spending Christmas here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Frizzell, sailed last night by the Prince George on her return to Vancouver.



TENTH PROVINCE PROVIDES ARMY UNIT—Three army units have been established in Newfoundland, authorities have announced. The 166th (Newfoundland) Field Artillery Regiment, which fought with the 1st British Army in North Africa and later with the 8th British Army in Italy is one of the units to join Canada's reserve forces. In this photo a gun crew of the regiment is shown in action in Italy where they fought alongside members of the 1st and 5th Canadian divisions.



DYING MOTHER FLIES TO ENGLAND—Guest of the T.C.A., Mrs. John Irving, of Hamilton, Ont., right, is seen with her three children, Mrs. E. H. Moison, her sister, and Pilot Sam Jackson. The war bride is being flown gratis to England to place her children with her family. Suffering from an incurable disease, she is not expected to live more than a few months.

Letters to the Editor

WAR, CIVILIZED AND SAVAGE

Editor, Daily News:
Sherman said, "War is hell!" The ancient Germans thought war was heroic, even heavenly and divine.

Our first reaction to this contrast is instantaneous and emotional: we think Sherman and the rest of modern Christian warriors are at least half-civilized, whereas we think the ancient Germans must have been ferocious savages. But instantaneous appraisals are often faulty and a more careful study may at least raise doubts about snap judgments.

One historical fact is that there have been many kinds of war. There is a cold war, a warm war, and a hot war. There have been wars of extermination, wars of religion, dynastic wars, wars of piracy and robbery. So far as I have learned no nation has long been free from lethal conflict of some sort between man and man. Nations have outlawed war but without much effect, either in domestic or in external affairs; we still have riots, lynchings, murder and armed robbery to fill the intervals of international "peace." Even the Christian ethic recognizes enemies while it bids us forgive them and love them.

Now I think that since the ancient Teutonic culture, no other culture, past or present, has achieved a more perfect compromise between the human duty to protect the weak, and the Christian ideal to love the enemy. That culture is now hidden from us by the dark shadows of the past rendered darker by the efforts of hostile chroniclers. But faint receding rays still reach the searching eye and half-doubted whisperings echo faintly. Offa, the Angle, was a kingdom and the faith and loyalty of a rival nation by the hazard of his life, and his alone, against two. The Teutonic trial by combat, the sacred gamble of a life to save many lives is now the butt and target for jests of meaner men; but if we could peer through the inky myths of clerical chroniclers and monastic ballad-mongers, we might learn and exult that Merian and West Saxon met and washed away their hates in the voluntary blood of two brave champions on Ellandune, and we might learn that Brunanburgh was a field of honour whence Welsh and Scots, Danes and English, parted in manly brotherhood.

EDWARD J. G. LETCHFORD.

MAYOR'S REPLY

Editor, Daily News:
As one of my last official acts as Mayor of this city I wish to protest the very unfair implications contained in your editorial entitled "On Being Kicked Out," and would ask that you give this letter equal publicity, to the end that the public may know the facts of the case.

This incident occurred, not at a regular meeting of the Council, but at a special meeting during which the Council sat as a Board of Appeal under the Motor Vehicle Act. Neither the public nor the press were excluded during the hearing of the evidence at the conclusion of which the litigant, the public and the press were asked to leave while the verdict was determined. This is standard procedure in any British Court. Even the judge is excluded while the jury deliberates, so is the Coroner under similar circumstances, and it is obvious that the deliberations of Appeal Court Judges are not open to anybody. Nobody is a greater believer in the freedom of the press than I am, and I also acknowledge its power. Power in any form imposes duties and the power exercised by the press imposes the duty of accurately reporting to the public all news which is in the public interest and regular meetings of the City Council must surely fall into that category. As a result of this supposed slight, the newspaper man charged with this duty left the special meeting, and failed to report the happenings of the regular meeting which I can assure him included many matters which were of interest to the public.

There are very few occasions when it is necessary for the City Council to go into closed session and the 1949 Council, did not, I believe do so on any single occasion until this last meeting. However, in certain cases when the character, record or circumstances of a private citizen must be discussed as in social welfare cases, or those offending against the law, the privacy of such people must be observed. Put the cap on your own head, Mr. Editor. If you or any member of your family became distressed, or in conflict with the law so that help or consideration from the City Council was needed, you would not wish to have a press man sit in on the hearing of all the distressing details. I have enjoyed much favorable publicity from the press and I shall continue to be its firm supporter as long as its duties transcend personalities.

NORA E. ARNOLD, Mayor.

Due to an omission in the contributed report, the name of Henry Dixon, groomsman, was inadvertently omitted from the account yesterday of the wedding of Miss Esther Meier and Leonard Dixon.

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What City Council Did

Reports of various committees were heard. The finance committee reported the sale of lots 11 and 12, block 13, section 2 to Robert E. Montador for \$800.

A letter received by the board of works committee from Bayfield and Archibald was read. The correspondence regarded the proposed engine and pump and council's account for \$30 was approved.

Police report for the month of November was received and approved.

Trade license applications were approved as follows:—Michael Nagraiff for a messenger service; Rupert Freezing Co. for cold storage lockers and retail meats; G. D. Ronson for installing and servicing oil burners and to James Patrick McLean for the operation of a taxi stand.

Other reports from the utilities, health, and pioneer's home committees were considered and approved.

Ray Reflects . . .

. . . and Reminisces

The dawn of a New Year will soon be breaking and millions are to hear the old, old salutation. After all life hinges largely on what you make it. Plenty of persons possessing advantages are miserable. They are not, nor can they be happy. Yet others, in one sense poor indeed, are rich in the things of the spirit. Their state of mind is a fortunate circumstance. A Happy New Year! How about counting your blessings. The chances are you will find a few.

It's not all beer and skittles. Six hundred homeless men are down to partake of a free holiday dinner at a Vancouver city mission on December 30. There is never a picture without the other side.

There is always a touch of what usually can pass for winter at Prince Rupert around the holiday season. How it's received depends a great deal on how one is feeling. Generally speaking, when one shakes hands hard enough to make you wince, it's not so bad.

"The twentieth century quoth Laurier in a moment of glowing ardour 'belongs to Canada'. Wilfrid himself has gone and within the next few days the same will be said of the first half of the hundred years. We'll talk it over once more next Christmas season and take another look around.

Fifty-two Canadian curlers will tour Scotland early in January, repaying the visit to Canada last year by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, Christmas, and a that, isn't entirely over for some folks.

The United States of Indonesia has come officially into existence since last week. The Dutch controlled the East Indies for three centuries, and

that has now ended. The process did not take anywhere near as long, and was far more peacefully performed than was the commencement of the United States of America.

It looks like the closing down of Skeena Highway for the next few months because of snowfalls. Opinions differ as to the wisdom of this, but its a fact that in older and more populous parts of British Columbia highway traffic has been cancelled or whittle, for the same reason, one can put that in his calash and smoke it.

There has never been a bank robbery or an attempt to plunder a bank in Prince Rupert so far as anyone knows. This city, many people feel, would be a most difficult place in which to commit such a crime and not be speedily caught. It would be a hard town to hide in and would involve plenty of peculiar problems in trying to escape from.

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Although 'twas a few days after Christmas, Santa Claus was still around and at the Valhalla Lodge hall Wednesday afternoon, he distributed gifts and candies to 24 children. The annual Christmas Tree of the organization was conveyed by Mrs. C. H. Insulander. In the evening, members and friends gathered at the hall for a party and dance.

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