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Looks Like Action

WITH the public behind them and a widespread and active interest being shown, the city council, with the co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce, Trades and Labor Council and other organizations, is now really exploring the possibility of relieving the housing shortage which exists in Prince Rupert today and which, with industrial expansion, gives promise of being a continuing problem.

The need has been well pointed out and one of the most convincing pieces of testimony in its support is that of the medical health officer who tells of deplorable conditions under which many people are living today. These conditions, he suggests, are injurious to health and morality, to say nothing of the morale of the people who are constrained to endure them. Many people who are able to live comfortably may not realize that slum conditions do exist in Prince Rupert today and that their instances are no longer few.

Whether or not action under the joint governmental low rental or purchase housing scheme can be successfully consummated, and there appears reason to expect that it should be, at least the dire need of housing here is being pointed up in a most effective way and the urgency of something being done about it with a minimum of delay. Of course, the most desirable thing would be private enterprise.

During the war we saw how they hustled up hundreds of houses in a hurry for industrial workers. Not since then has the situation been more critical than it is today.

WHAT OF MIDDLE CLASS?

CANADIANS are still among the most fortunate of peoples but one important group of them, the white collared or middle class, is not quite so fortunate as it was 10 years ago, says Financial Post. Some new official information on personal income and expenditures is worth the most careful study. It indicates some significant deterioration in the economic standing of a group this country or any other can ill afford to see weakened.

It may not be news to the hard-pressed housewife, but it is of national significance nevertheless, that Canadians are spending a considerably higher proportion of their incomes on the bare necessities like food and less on such things as books, recreation, travel and education than they were in 1939.

They are also spending less, in some cases much less, on household help, clothing, medical care and funerals. On automobiles they are spending a little higher percentage of their earnings but on gasoline and oil a little less—which means that motor cars cost a good deal more than they did in 1939, but we are not taking so many long drives because gas costs far more too.

Boiled down and digested, these statistics confirm what has long been suspected, namely that the standard of living of our middle or white collared class, which suffered a body blow during the war, has not yet recovered. And so long as bare necessities like food and shelter continue to be high, and taxes continue to be heavy, it will not recover.

Since 1939 the pressure has been severe and continues so on this group. In this category income has risen some but not nearly to the extent as the increase in wages. And of course the tax take of governments has multiplied.

Over wide areas of Europe, two world wars, heavy taxes, and inflation have almost wiped out the middle class. The position of that very important group in Great Britain deteriorates further every year.

What makes a country strong and gives it stability is the size and vigor of its middle class. What is needed is more "levelling up" and less "levelling down."

CAT NAP

Rest and relaxation help to tone up the body. Even a few minutes' rest taken during the day's work will help to ward off weariness. Sitting quite relaxed, with eyes closed and, if possible, feet raised, for 10 minutes or so will bring new energy to carry on the job. Good ventilation in the home, office or shop is a great help—stale air adds to that tired feeling.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FOR TODAY

"The Scripture has concluded all under sin."—Gal. 3:22

Letters to the Editor

VALUE OF MUSIC

Editor, Daily News—

The recent visit of the Greenville Concert Band has stirred up considerable interest. A letter to the editor that appeared in the Daily News a few days ago over the signature of Helen M. Denning seems indeed to have voiced the sentiments of many who heard this fine organization.

The village of Greenville, entire population approximately 750, was able to turn out over 60 excellent bandmen for our Armistice Day parade. What a fine tribute to these people and their leader! Musicians of the Greenville Concert Band and Fred McKay must have worked overtime to attain such a high degree of proficiency because their principal occupation, fishing, would keep the members widely scattered for a good part of the summer making frequent rehearsals difficult.

The Prince Rupert Shrine Club Band drew many fine comments for their good musicianship and smart appearance. But in a city that boasts of 10,000 population Bandmaster Peter Lien could only persuade about 20 to come on parade. Why?

Have we parents lost true perspective of the value of music in the lives of our children? Leading educators seem to think so and are working toward adding music as a regular subject in schools and colleges. In a survey conducted by some of these leading educators, at Canadian and American universities and also at Oxford, it was found that the greatest percentage of honor students had either studied music or were quite proficient on some musical instrument.

English factories were among the first to make use of the "music while you work" idea. Not only does music keep the workers happy and contented but working to rhythm tends to prevent or lessen fatigue and therefore results in greater production.

Basketball, boxing and other forms of sport are fine for building up a strong, healthy body, but has your ball-playing son thought of how the study of music can improve his prowess in the field of sport by adding rhythm and accurate timing to his movements?

Readers must have the most sincere interest of their sons or daughters at heart. By giving them an opportunity to study music they are doing their finest duty as parents. For music builds, creates and develops the finest in every child. It builds character. Out of 1700 children to receive training in recent years in the Denver, Colorado, Junior Police Band, not a single one ever appeared in juvenile police court. This alone is proof that the idea of using music to fight juvenile crime is sound. Music creates self-confidence; it develops initiative, it encourages wholesome companionships, provides discipline, assures health, aids friendship, offers opportunities and is a guarantee to a lifetime of happiness.

So by all means let the Navy organize a band. Let us have a High School band. Let our own Shrine Club Band under the leadership of Mr. Peter Lien retain their identity as they deserve after so much persevering work but may their ranks increase in numbers.

Any boy or girl can be a smart addition to any band or tomorrow.

"Give the boy a horn."
MIKE COLUSSI.

Conrad Street PTA Card Party

The regular monthly card party of the Conrad School Parent-Teacher Association was held Friday with K. Murray as convener.

Prize winners for the evening were R. Shearer, cribbage; Mrs. H. Denning, whist, and W. J. Hardin, bridge.

Mrs. J. K. Murray, assisted by Mrs. J. Husick, Mrs. A. Desautels, Mrs. H. Blair and Mrs. H. Thom, served tasty refreshments.

TO "ANCIENT"

Editor, Daily News:

You have signed yourself very appropriately. Take a look around you, sir, and you will find our world has progressed a great deal since your childhood days, thanks to our many lazy people of today. They couldn't quite understand why they had to spend many hard hours working with make-shift appliances on farms and in the homes, so they invented tractors and cars and washing machines and, since you've had time to look around, you have noticed their other inventions.

So you see, Mr. Ancient, why today's children no longer have to spend their time laboring as you did in your time but that does not give you reason to begrudge them their facilities today.

Do you suppose any normal teen-ager with good health and good personality is crying because he or she can't occupy their time. I think not. We have the teen-ager who is unhappily complaining about this unnecessary misfortune and I fail to see how they can be normal children. Let's stop pointing our fingers at the offsprings and try their parents instead. What a pity they couldn't have developed good character in their children so that they would be able (Continued on Page 4)

TEEN-AGERS BUSY

Editor, Daily News:

"Ancient" may have something in that letter he wrote, November 16, but you can bet that not many of the old timers and adults of this day would care to go back to the days when they fought Indians and slaved away from 12 to 18 hours a day. He (or she) didn't give parents much credit for the way today's teen-agers are brought up. Granted—some aren't brought up properly. In fact a good many aren't, but that is no reason to condemn all of us. Perhaps many haven't enough to do. That's very evident but a good many have.

I could name for him a good many fifteen-year-olds, including myself, who cook a good number of the meals in the house and also make or buy most of their own clothes. I receive no allowance but buy many of my own clothes or buy material to make them. This money comes from baby sitting alone as my mother says I'm too young to work (I'm 15). She, and others, say that we teen-agers have plenty of time to work after graduation. Perhaps they're right.

If everyone lived on farms and ate out of the cellar, made shoes from cow hide and clothes from sheep's wool not only teen-agers but "Ancient" himself and all the other adults would have a lot more of a rough time than they have now.

Is that what "Ancient" wants? Or does he think some pleasure is a waste of time?

"ONE OF THOSE USELESS, GIDDY TEEN-AGERS"

DYNAMITE

Editor, Daily News:

Here is to the man who called himself "Ancient" in the Daily News of November 16.

If you will look back in your teen-age days and if you wanted to, you will find some of your friends were "mollycoddled." So when he wrote his letter he said: "In our younger days there was none of this mollycoddling." Try and think hard, Ancient, after all you must admit that there was a certain amount of mollycoddling in "your" days, too.

Instead of judging all of us just by the traits of a certain teen-ager, why don't you look around. I'm sure you will find quite a difference. I don't want to think of you as a Communist but you seem to judge all of us by the traits of just one person. However, I hope this isn't true.

All of us aren't "like birds in a nest" nor are we "gullible seagulls." Just to prove to you that some of us aren't mollycoddled, I will give you an example. "There is a girl whom I will call Miss X. If she ever wanted anything, she has to work for it herself. She works in the summer, in order to buy clothes. When school opens in September, she does odd jobs like housework or babysitting, in order to "enjoy" life such as going to the show, or basketball games or other kinds of entertainment. However, she doesn't spend all her hard earned money on entertainment. She buys school supplies; puts aside so much for collection on Sundays;

and when birthdays, or the Christmas season rolls around, she buys presents for one and all of her friends and relatives. Besides all this, she is paying her own way through school and furthermore, she is going to go to one of the universities (at her own expense) when she graduates. Now Ancient, tell me the truth, would you say this girl was "mollycoddled?"

Don't you think tag days help a lot of people? If you don't think they do, try thinking harder the next time "you think." To mention a few, there are the tag days for the Blind; for the Veterans (poppies); for the Veterans Cross, the Hospital, etc. When (Continued on Page 4)

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