Prince Rupert Daily News

Thursday, March 16, 1950

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and northern and central British Columbia
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 — Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association
— SUBSCRIPTION RATES —
By Carrier, Per Week, 20c; Per Month, 75c; Per Year, $8.00; By Mail, Per Month 50c; Per Year $5.00.

The Statehood Situation

ALASKA AND HAWAII have moved a step nearer statehood. That doesn't mean they'll get it, at least this year.

The United States House of Representatives has approved statehood for both of them. Unless the Senate agrees, and it may not, the House action means nothing.

Next year there'll be a new Congress. And, in a new Congress, what either house did in a previous Congress doesn't count. In that case, the two territories will have to start from scratch again. Both have been seeking statehood a long time.

The U.S. bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for $7,200,000. It wasn't allowed to become a territory until 1912.

A territory can elect its own legislature but the President appoints a governor.

Alaska and Hawaii are each allowed one delegate in Congress. But he can't vote, even when Congrass is passing laws affecting his territory.

The people in a territory pay all the federal taxes but, although they're U.S. citizens, they can't vote in a national election.

Alaska with an area of 585,000 square miles, has a population of about 100,000 people, more than many of the present states had when they were admitted to the union. Hawaii, made up of seven islands with an area of about 6,400 square miles, has a population of 540,000, of which 86 per cent are U.S. citizens.

The people in both territories have voted in favor of statehood. Congressional committees have investigated the problem. The Democratic and Republican parties have promised statehood for both territories in their party platforms. The President approves.

Pressure to get the job done began in the 1930's. First real action came in 1947. Then the House voted to let Hawaii come in. The Senate has never voted. So nothing happened. This year the House now has voted for Hawaii again and, for the first time, for Alaska, too.

The people in both territories argue that they have more than served their apprenticeship as territories. They're both experienced in running their territorial affairs, but, nevertheless, Congress really runs them, and makes laws for them. Yet, their people have no voice in shaping those laws.

Although residents of the territories have to pay federal taxes they don't receive the full benefits from federal laws that states get.

Congressmen opposed argue that, if admitted, Alaska and Hawaii would have two senators each, since every state has two senators. In addition, Hawaii would be entitled to two representatives in the House. Alaska would have one.

In their local elections, about 100,000 Hawaiian residents vote. In Alaska the vote is about 20,000. Therefore, Alaska would have two senators representing only 20,000 voters whereas states with millons of votes are allowed only two.

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Where mountains, lakes and glaciers combine,
To reveal a story to all mankind.
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So now, while alive, be sure that you see,
This wonderland Province, the land of B. C.

Our mountains are numerous, our rivers sublime,
On their banks lie the highways for tourists in time
Just follow those streams and there you will see,
A Canadian Wonderland, the land of B. C.

We have caribou, moose, and deer galore,
We have grizzly and black bear and many more,
It's the wonderland Province, it is something to see
It is Canada's best, the land of B. C.

The Skeena, the Fraser, the Columbia too,
Were streams of adventure for the first hardy few.
On the map they are marked for all travellers to see,
So plan your next trip to the land of B. C.

While each gate of entrance can offer some prize,
The Skeena has something that will open your eyes,
In summer two hours is the sun's only rest,
Come to Prince Rupert, point farthest west.

—GEO. B. CASEY

Big Sweepstake Drawing Now On

DUBLIN—Pretty nurses started drawing lucky tickets in the 68th Irish Sweepstakes Wednesday. They will entitle 1,118 holders to split a price fund of $2,338,000. As in the last sweep—which yields millions for the benefits of Irish Hospitals—the 13 holders of tickets on the winning horse will each receive £25,000 ($70,000 in United States funds and $77,500 in Canadian currency.) Second place winners get £10,000 and third-place winners £5,000. First three tickets drawn were: 33446-Ever Amber, VA55228-Douch, VP-27147 Father.

Kenneth Thompson of Vancouver, assistant district manager of Great West Life Assurance Co., will be leaving on tomorrow night's train for Prince Rupert after having spent the past few days here in the course of a business trip through the district.

LETTERBOX

C.C.F. AND JAPS

Editor, Daily News,

It has been learned from the Prince Rupert Daily News and from correspondence recently received from Harold Sinclair, interior district vice-president for Skeena of the Native Brotherhood, that the Japanese are now being granted fishing licences for 1950 and that some Japs are already at some canneries on the Skeena.

Harold Sinclair has pointed out that there is now a rope around the necks of the native people and, with the return of the Japanese, the native people are about to face hardship and the doom of the livelihood of their children. Natives as well as whites who work in the canneries as boat-builders, mechanics, carpenters, painters, net men and other cannery employment will, in due time, be out of their jobs.

The native people do not consider themselves selfishly but equally consider the white people.

We have also learned of the recommendations of the C.C.F. members in the Legislature and their approval of the return of the Japanese to the fishing grounds. The native people wonder if their brother, Frank Calder, a member of the C.C.F. party, realizes the hardship that our native people are about to face, the doom of their children's livelihood. It was Mr. Calder who stated in a C.C.F. meeting at Hazelton last spring before the election that the C.C.F. party was fighting for the native rights in British Columbia. Now it seems that it is the C.C.F. party which is placing the rope around the necks of the native fishermen and their children because of their recommendations fully supporting and approving the Japs return.

We native people must unitedly stand within the rights of our demands and proven claims.

J. A. FOWLER.

Kitwanga.

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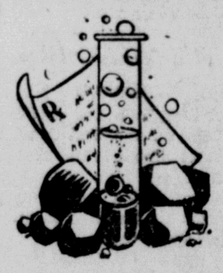

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Margarine Ban Is Being Lifted

CHARLOTTETOWN—A bill will be introduced during the current session of the Prince Edward Island legislature to lift the ban on the sale and manufacture of margarine in the province, Agriculture Minister Cleveland Baker said last night. The minister made the announcement several hours after the P.E.I. Agriculture Federation had presented a brief to the Government urging a continuation of the ban. Quebec and P.E.I. are the only two Canadian provinces in which margarine is banned.

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