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The Housing Plan

SINCE the first step that must be taken in order to bring the new federal-provincial housing plan into Prince Rupert is to survey the need and ascertain the actual possibilities of potential local home builders interesting themselves in the scheme, the city, with the encouragement of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations, is circulating questionnaires through the medium of the Daily News today.

Now it is up to the local people themselves who desire to build new homes here to come forward and show their interest so that further steps may be taken. If, for any reason, no particular interest is shown, then nothing will happen.

Certainly there is a need for housing in Prince Rupert. Its lack is already discouraging people from coming here to locate. Of course, some one has got to do the building. Just knowing that there is the need but doing nothing about it is not going to help the situation any.

As we have said before, the new federal-provincial scheme would appear to have very definite possibilities here. It provides the most generous volume of assistance and the easiest plan for repayment that has so far been offered.

The Daily News heartily commends the scheme to the consideration of prospective home builders and hopes that they will display a sufficient measure of interest to enable some action being obtained towards the financing of local homes under its terms.

"OLLIE" FRANKS

THE Daily News mourns with something of the feeling of a member of the family the passing in New Westminster of A. O. Franks who was a member of our staff for many years as well as having been for a long time a contemporary of ours in the newspaper publishing business.

Mr. Franks was one of the real pioneers of Prince Rupert. There are not many still here who were in the city when John Houston founded Prince Rupert's first newspaper, the old Empire. Except for a very few, he had spent the most of those forty-two years here.

Having exceeded in years the allotted span, he has now passed on after a quiet and unassuming yet useful life. He was one of the army of city builders the ranks of whom are rapidly diminishing as one generation gives over to another.

Those of us who worked with the late "Ollie" Franks knew best his sterling qualities and it is, therefore, with the utmost sincerity and justification, we pay tribute to his memory.

25 Years Ago

MAY 30, 1925

The Skeena River at Terrace is the highest it has been in years and a month earlier than usual.

The city council last night accepted the offer of the Royal Finance Corporation of Vancouver of 98.32 for an issue of \$114,839.94 worth to ten year six per cent general and local improvement debentures.

All was set at the dry dock this morning for the launching on the high tide of the big Vickers Viking flying boat, which will carry Archibald Little, Detroit mining engineer, and his party to the Dease Lake mining fields, when adverse reports regarding ice conditions on the Stikine River were received and the launching and take off for the north were accordingly delayed.

MAY 30, 1940

In the junior high school football league Saturday, Beta defeated Gamma by a score of three to nil.

Non-committal letters from Premier Byron Johnson, Attorney General Gordon Wismer and Provincial Secretary W. T. Straith in regard to the Chamber's representations in support of the application of Ross Bros. for a beer license for a projected new hotel were read at last night's Chamber meeting and laid on the table without comment.

Menace to Freedom—

Warns Against Attempts to Overthrow Democracy

A grave warning of insidious means that are being attempted to overthrow freedom in Canada was sounded to the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce and delegates from Terrace Boards of Trade last night by W. J. Sheridan, executive secretary of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

A growing mistrust of Christianity was pointed out as one of the chief inroads being made into the Canadian way of life. Mr. Sheridan alluded to statements in both Marx's "Das Kapital" and Hitler's "Mein Kampf" to the effect that democracy depended on Christianity for its existence. The cold war was being lost, the speaker claimed, because of the drift away from Christian thinking. He mentioned a survey recently carried out in the United States in which 75 per cent of young people covering all religious creeds manifested doubts about Christianity. He was alarmed that people in North America were drifting away from the beliefs upon which the democratic system was founded.

Another point Mr. Sheridan cited as pointing to losing the cold war was the apathy of voters at election time. He said the 75 per cent that turned out at the last federal election might seem a fair average but he said it also meant there were over 1,500,000 who did not even bother to go to the polls which in most cases were hardly further away than the corner. In provincial and municipal elections, he went on, the situation was even worse. "With such apathy, democracy will disappear," he averred.

The speaker deplored the tendency of people to look to the government to do everything for them. "Each time you ask the government for something, some one will have to pay for it — usually business," he declared. He said the Chamber of Commerce could do something about the matter and, indeed, was. He told of two communities where the direct action of the Chamber of Commerce had been of use—one where the chamber's action had organized a whole community to build a community centre without asking aid from governments, another where the chamber had conducted a business survey that showed business was good contrary to much loose talk around to the effect things were going to the dogs. He used them as examples to show how the tem-

perament and temper of a whole community can be changed by the Chamber of Commerce. "That is the spirit that can save our freedom," he said. "We've seen freedom killed in country after country, and we're fooling ourselves if we think it cannot be done here," the speaker continued. "We must develop a desire for work and independence."

SELLING FREE ENTERPRISE

Mr. Sheridan told his listeners they believed in free enterprise way of life but did not know how to sell it. He told of how people on the other side of the fence always had their arguments marshalled, whereas many solid believers in capitalism did not bother to gather together their reasons for believing in it. "Until we have faith in our own democracy," he claimed, "we are fighting a losing battle."

Another problem facing the country today, Mr. Sheridan said, was that of foreign trade. With the great production developed during the war he claimed it was necessary to sell much of the produce outside the country. A cut in foreign trade, he claimed, would lower the standard of living.

In this regard, he said, government could do a lot to help. He suggested dropping of controls, particularly foreign exchange controls, and allowing free convertibility of currencies.

Another help would be labor in matching demands for higher pay with offers for greater production so that Canadian goods would not be priced out of world markets.

Business has its obligation to keep production costs down and to sell their products.

Consumers had their obligation, too, by keeping their demands on the government to a minimum. Each time the government was called on to do something it meant a hike in taxes which put the cost of goods up.

There was still some misunderstanding as to what the Chamber of Commerce was, the speaker said, and too many peo-



P.M. WADING—Prime Minister St. Laurent and his daughter, Mrs. Hugh O'Donnell of Montreal, Sunday waded through Red River flood areas on Oakenwald Avenue, in the Wildwood district of Winnipeg. Most homes in the area, owned by young war veterans, have been flooded. On the Prime Minister's right is Justice Minister Garson. (CP Photo)

ple thought it was just big businessmen in the larger cities of the east. However, it was actually the banding together of good citizen groups in over 650 centres across Canada to work for the general betterment of their communities and the country.

Mr. Sheridan was appointed recently to his position to replace Don Morell, who was made general manager of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

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Cool Weather Delays Seeding

WINNIPEG — Cool showery weather has been general over the three prairie provinces and seeding to a great extent has been delayed, according to the weekly crop report of the Department of Agriculture of the Canadian National Railways.

Seeding of grain in southern Manitoba will be general this week, while in Central and northern Manitoba seeding is already general with approximately 40 percent of wheat already seeded. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, seeding of wheat is general and in some places 75 percent to 100 percent completed.

Moisture conditions in Manitoba, Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta are satisfactory, but in central and southern Alberta more rains are required to give early germination of crops already seeded.

In the Okanagan Valley, weather during the past week has been fairly cool and there is no change in the crop estimate from preceding reports.

Duncan Kerr, secretary of the Associated Boards of Trade of Central British Columbia, J. H. Smith, Harry King and James Stevenson motored in from Terrace yesterday afternoon and returned to the interior last night after attending a meeting of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce at which W. J. Sheridan, executive secretary of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce from Montreal, was the featured speaker.

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