

Defence of Europe

RUSSIA'S atomic advance has vastly altered two military calculations. First, it has cooled the infatuation with strategic bombing and made Western defence planners begin to think of other means for making effective reply to a potential attack. Second, it has emphasized the difficulty of repeating landings such as those in Italy and Normandy where massed troops and supplies would be newly vulnerable. Furthermore the development of new defensive weapons has added to the probability that recapture of Europe would be tremendously difficult.

These factors are pushing military plans toward far greater emphasis on holding the line of the Elbe or the Rhine. The Western powers cannot today guarantee success for such a plan. But plainly a strategy which seeks to protect the people of Europe rather than one for their eventual release is more likely to win united, confident, and enthusiastic support from them.

In any common defense effort this strategy is indispensable. Any plan which contemplates even temporary abandonment of the heart of Europe will forfeit it. Any plan which retains it has an immeasurable advantage. Military leaders and statesmen charged with shaping Atlantic Pact defense must give full weight to such intangibles of the spirit.

OUR FINE WEATHER

THIS is practically mid-December and as yet, Prince Rupert has experienced no real winter. It has not been consistently agreeable but it has not been severe enough to cause harm or damage. There has been an absence of rigorous cold. Saturday night saw the first snow which was little more than a flurry with indications of gradually turning to rain. Seasons so lacking in sharp and sudden changes go a long way in shortening a winter. It is quite probable that here there will be little difference perhaps not until New Year or even later.

Contrast this with the prairies, eastern Canada, and the northern states. November saw the arrival of zero, bitter gales and snow drifts not to mention the imperative need of more clothing, fuel and food. Blessed Prince Rupert!

Sheriff's Sale

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Between—HANSON LUMBER AND TIMBER COMPANY, LIMITED, Plaintiff
 And—FRED BUGG, Defendant.
 Under and by virtue of a Writ of Fieri Facias issued from the above Court and to me directed against the goods and chattels of the defendant, Fred Bugg, I have seized one Pandon Unit Sawmill complete with power unit, 200 lb.m. lumber, camp buildings and their contents, tools and accessories, 240 sawlogs at the camp known as Bugg's Camp, near Skeena Crossing, 600 more or less, cedar poles in the woods near the said camp and three draft horses, now at Hanson's stables, at Nash. Goods and chattels may be viewed at the above described locations on Thursday December 15, 1949, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon at the Sheriff's office in the Court House, Prince Rupert. I will offer for sale at public auction, all the right, title and interest of the defendant in the above goods and chattels.
 Terms of sale: Cash. This sale is subject to the Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax.
 The highest or any bid not necessarily accepted.
 Dated at Prince Rupert, B.C. this 6th day of December, 1949.
 M. M. STEPHENS,
 Sheriff of the County of Prince Rupert, B.C.

Victoria Report

by J. K. Nesbitt

Hospitals Going Democratic—More Multiple Words, Fewer Private

VICTORIA — B. C. hospital design is being changed by hospital insurance.

The rich will no longer bask in private room luxury. The poor won't squirm in public ward disturbance.

St. Joseph's Hospital here is building a new wing which shows this trend.

The four-storey addition will have 128 beds, in four-bed, 17 by 24 foot wards, eight to a floor. Each ward will be divided, in effect, into two semi-private rooms. Patients will no longer face each other. Each ward will have toilet, wash basin and shower, each patient his own clothes locker—now an undreamed-of luxury in public wards. No patient ever likes his clothes taken from him and hidden from his view.

This new-style wing will make pioneer St. Joseph's one of the most modern hospitals in North America. It was designed by H. Whittaker, former chief architect for the Provincial Government, who has made a speciality of hospital architecture.

Since hospital insurance came in, hospitals have been so crowded most private rooms are now semi-private. Some have three beds. It is almost impossible to get a private room. This is infuriating people who want privacy above necessary hospitalization for other people.

There is a greater demand than ever for private rooms. With insurance paying public ward rates, many can afford the difference between public ward and private room. Less and less they can do this, because there just aren't the private rooms. And there are going to be fewer and fewer.

Private rooms take up too much space, one patient taking room three could use. The province—which means the taxpayers—can't afford many private rooms. If new wings have as many private rooms as formerly, if private rooms aren't turned into small wards, premiums will go up again. The government is dead set against that.

Private rooms will always be needed for desperately sick cases. No longer, however, is the person in hospital a few days for a tonsil operation going to be allowed to luxuriate in a suite with bay window, private bath and telephone, Oriental rugs and a pretty nurse almost to himself. He will have to give that up so the man with little money won't have to go into a big ward. A compromise is coming, for the good of everybody. The new types of semi-private, as St. Joseph's shows, saves space and nurses' time. The time a nurse spends going from private room to private room must be staggering.

A lot of people don't like this new deal, but it's part of the "we-are-our-brothers' keepers" pattern of B.C. social services. Health and Welfare Minister George Pearson puts private room vs. public ward argument

this way: "The more you isolate patients in private rooms the more expensive you make hospital operation. To give adequate hospitalization for all, we just can't afford big private rooms. They are far too expensive. In the United States they

are costing \$12,000 to \$15,000 a bed. That would cripple us in B.C. We can give good hospital service without unnecessary frills."

While on the subject of hospital insurance, this reporter would put in a good word for it. There has been confusion, true, what some people think a political double cross when premiums were upped after the election. By and large, however, hospital insurance is proving a great blessing. Just ask the man who can thumb his nose at a \$600 bill. There shouldn't be too much patience with people who say they can't afford the premiums. How would they meet a \$600 bill without insurance? They wouldn't. They didn't in the past. Their fellow citizens had to pay.

Evening Service For Mrs. Dutton

Funeral service for Mrs. Charlotte Dutton, 73, well known in Prince Rupert and the Kitwanga district, who died here Friday, was held in Grenville Court chapel last night. Rev. L. G. Sieber of First United Church officiated.

Relatives and many friends of the deceased were present. Mrs. J. C. Gilker was organist to accompany the hymns, "Rock of Ages" and "Abide With Me."

Mrs. Dutton is survived by one daughter, Mrs. C. Michaloff of this city; three sons, Eugene Prince Rupert and Russell and Leon of Kitwanga.

Remains were forwarded to Kitwanga for burial.

Palbearers were E. E. Yager, sr., Ed Yager, jr., W. Rothwell, Vernon Rowe, F. H. Cameron and R. A. Bean.

TRAIN SCHEDULE

for the East—
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 8:00 p.m.



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Michael W. H. Krueger.

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