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Budget Reflections

A BUDGET totalling \$105,000,000, as introduced in the Legislature yesterday by the minister of finance, Mr. Anscomb, is, indeed, a tremendous financial document for a province the size of British Columbia.

The document shows the province to be in a healthy and sound condition as might be expected in Mr. Anscomb's careful hands. The figures speak for themselves.

Nevertheless, there are big financial concerns for British Columbia reflected in the budget and one of these is the experience in the operation of the hospital insurance fund. First initiated as a self-supporting scheme, it has had an approximate deficit of \$4,587,000 for the fifteen months ending with the present fiscal year at the end of March. This deficit is being financed by \$2,000,000 placed in a stabilization fund and \$2,500,000 to be appropriated from past revenue surpluses. Over and above this, however, and notwithstanding certain immediate measures to be taken, there will still be \$2,500,000 in the coming year which will have to be charged against provincial revenue.

Hospital insurance, British Columbia's greatest venture of this type to date, is proving a costly business and it may be that, to continue to finance it as well as aid to municipalities, there will have to be further direct taxation. We are not condoning the three percent sales tax, nor could we accept an increase in that tax without protest. Yet if we are going to have these kind of services, and we have demanded them, they will have to be paid for some way or other. In short, it is very pleasant having but it is not so pleasant paying.

Further than the greatly increasing financial requirements for the social services and municipal aid, Mr. Anscomb has quite fittingly pointed out that the province also needs funds to develop resources and promote industrial progress which will, in time, of course, be instrumental in augmented revenue for the public coffers. "These funds cannot be had except by securing a much greater proportion of the corporation and personal income taxes and succession duties now taken by the national government," says Mr. Anscomb. And this points up to the importance of the projected financial conference to be held with the federal government and the other provinces at Ottawa this fall when "a very broad and realistic outlook on British Columbia's needs" will most certainly have to be taken.

POWER AND WATER

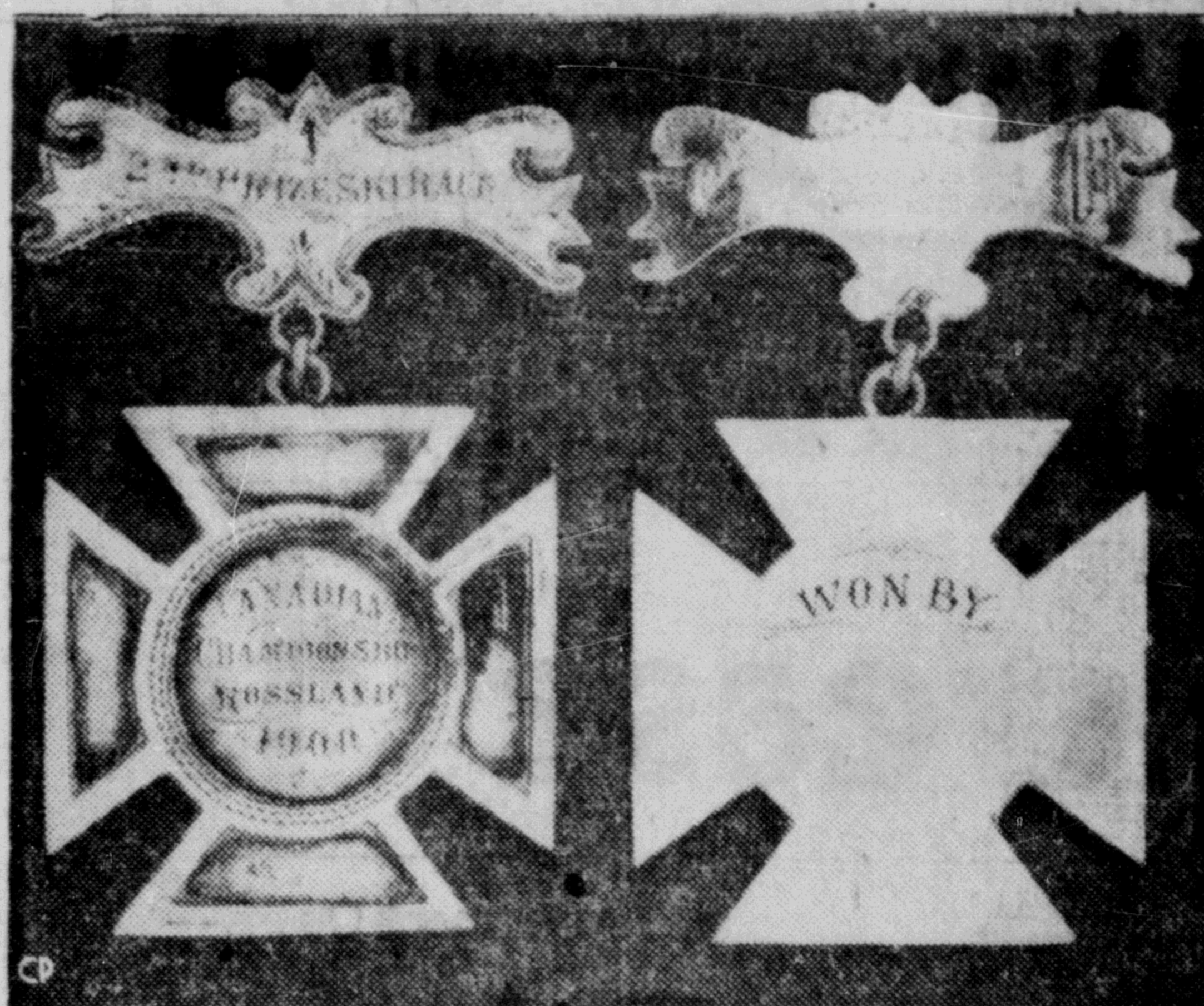
AFTER ALL the hullabaloo has died down in regard to the recent power shortage, the city council has received an opinion from its solicitors suggesting it may not have specific grounds for action against the power company under the default clauses of the 1929 agreement—unless the city can dig up more information to support such action. After all, what happened a few weeks ago is water under the bridge (if not over the dam) and what should be done now is to ensure that it does not happen again.

It is fully evident now that Prince Rupert requires a greater power development and the power company itself has promised that it will be increasing its production by early fall. Whether the proposed new agreement with the Power Company is acceptable is something for the city council to decide upon and for the people to approve by their votes. We shall be hearing more of the whole thing in due course and there will be opportunity for full and free discussion apart from the heat of a crisis.

The blessed rain has restored our light and our water and we must not forget that the shortage of water, such as we have experienced on more than one occasion in recent years and for varying causes, principal among which appears to be the worn-out and broken down water system, is another major problem that requires immediate and effective attention.

MATTER OF PRIDE

TOTEM POLES are indigenous only to that narrow sea coast of British Columbia and south-east Alaska and nowhere else in the world, declared the Federation of Canadian Artists in a recent brief to the federal government. That being the case, the splendid collection at Prince Rupert should arouse a feeling of pride. Perhaps it does, but if not, its possession certainly would in many an older and larger city.



WHOSE IS IT?—Fifty years ago there was a ski race at Rossland, B.C., and a medal was awarded to the second prize winner. The medal has just turned up in Norway but there is no indication of the owner. Hans J. Saune found the medal near Trondelag. Listening to the CBC international broadcasts, he decided to send it to CBC headquarters in Montreal in the hope someone will claim it. (CP Photo)

Is Not Bushed At Kincolith

A sense of humor and devotion to duty keep Mrs. Jessie Richardson Leite from becoming "bushed" in the Naas River country, north of here.

Wife of the postmaster at Kincolith on the Naas, Mrs. Leite is kept busy as nurse, doctor, mother-confessor and radio operator to more than 1,000 Naas Indians in four tribes.

Officially in charge of Kincolith Nursing Station since 1942, Mrs. Leite works as far as Hidden Inlet on the Alaska border.

Being the only white woman in the community doesn't bother her much.

"I love my work," she says. "The people are fine and upright and, in many cases, well educated. They are all good to me."

Floundering along through knee-deep snow in the winter, when she's been called out at night for a maternity case, does demand "a sense of humor," she admits.

Transportation to the outside and to outlying districts of her territory is provided solely by boat.

A licensed radio operator for the last two years, Mrs. Leite handles the only radio telephone in the area.

General nursing and surgical cases along with delivering babies make up most of my duties," she says.



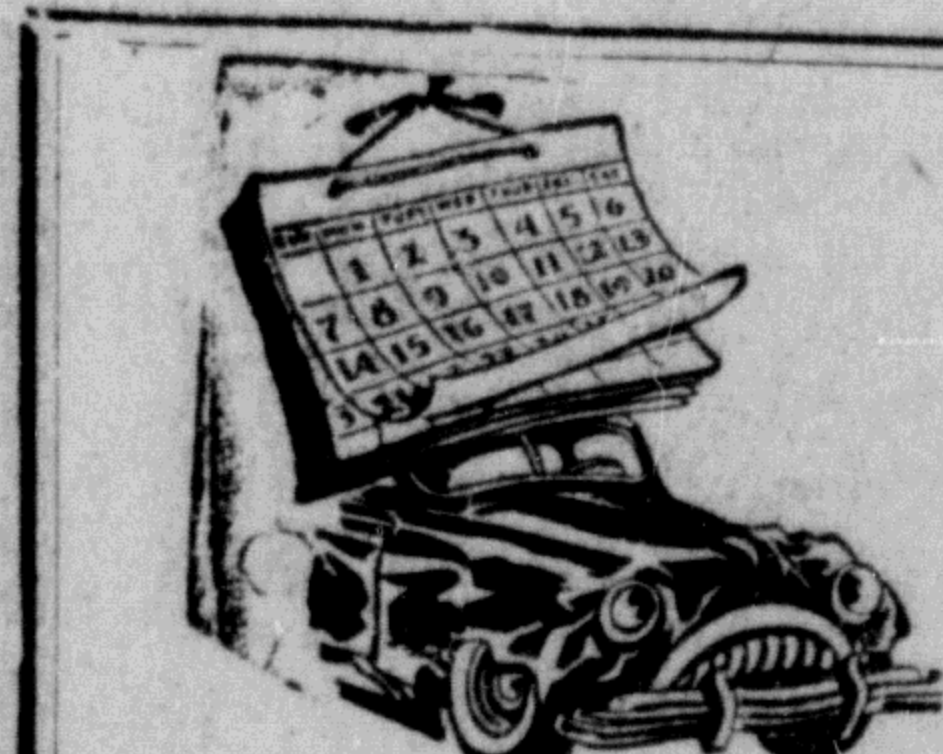
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Ray Reflects . . . and Reminisces

The ferocious leopard that gave Oklahoma City an attack of nervous prostration has been captured. It had devoured meat containing sleeping powder. To meet the leopard was risky, of course, but other strangers prowling around town may also be dangerous. They wear pants.

Unless protests are strong enough there is a likelihood of the scenic grandeur of Niagara Falls becoming marred. More power is required—hence, possibly disfigurement. It's not surprising. Today, it's business, and not a lot of falling water that counts.

Local folks who say they prefer the raw jingle—jangle of the average alarm clock to the harshness of a fleet of buses, need not be that way. Today, for a modest figure, one can purchase a musical alarm that has both volume and sweetness. It can arouse you while playing "Oh, I Hate To Get Up In The Morning" and make you like it, too.

More than election reports come from Great Britain, just now. A badly heckled man at a campaign meeting appealed to the chairman:

"There is so much noise, I can't hear myself speak."
Voice From Rear—"Cheer up matey. You ain't missin' muth."

It seems that not long ago, a coast druggist discovered that, during the night, burglars had been in the drug store. All he missed was a quantity of liniment. In fact, that's all the robbers got for their pains.

Fire Outbreak In Commons

LONDON.—Fire broke out in the basement of the House of Commons Tuesday. It was out in ten minutes but the pungent smell of smoke hung over the first session of the newly-elected Parliament today.

Five brigades of firemen were summoned by the police to the historic building and soon had the fire under control. There was little damage.



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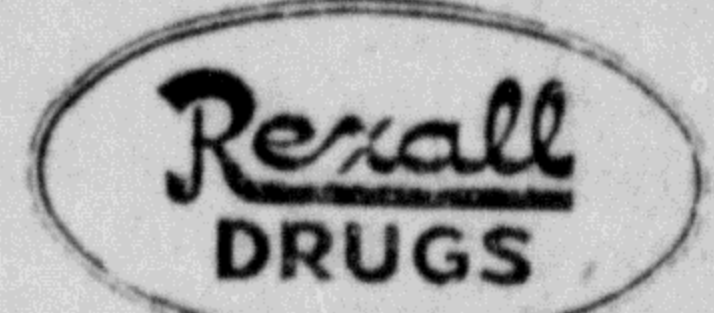
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