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Coastal Freight Rates

WHEN THE LATEST coastal freight rate increase was imposed earlier this month Prince Rupert consignees, believing it would not amount to much more than ten percent or so above the thirty percent that was slapped on last September, were inclined to accept it as reasonable and inevitable and resign themselves accordingly. According to a statement made in responsible quarters here yesterday, however, the increase has amounted to anything from 20 percent on such commodities as jams to 200 percent on toilet tissue. The latter, like many other commodities, has now been put on a cubic measurement basis instead of the poundage basis which it formerly rode, thereby accounting for such a substantial increase. Carload rates are also restricted now.

One specific item on which a definite quotation of freight rate increase has been obtained is that of sugar which is now costing \$12.45 per ton to bring from Vancouver instead of the former \$7.80. These increases in rates will eventually pass on to the final consumer. Neither wholesalers or retailers will absorb it.

Prince Rupert people were prepared to accept philosophically a reasonable increase but if the increase is really going to amount to anything from twenty to 200 percent, it will not be taken so kindly and there will undoubtedly be some move to find some more economical means of transportation between Vancouver and Prince Rupert. Failing that, the possibility is even now being canvassed of bringing goods in from Edmonton by rail rather than from Vancouver by boat.

FISH RESEARCH STATION

THE PRINCE RUPERT Chamber of Commerce delegation may not have obtained much encouragement from the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in answer to its petition to have a branch research station re-established here. However, it was not wasted time or effort to make the submission to this effect. The Research Board must have been at least impressed with the presentation that Prince Rupert, as a fisheries port of primary importance, feels it is entitled to more accessible assistance from the Research Board's services and the argument that Prince Rupert is more conveniently situated than any other port to the source of the fisheries.

The Board's answer, in brief, to the Prince Rupert Chamber's representations, was that, in view of the present limitations of funds and personnel, fisheries research could be more efficiently centralized from the existing stations—one at Nanaimo and one at Vancouver—giving service to the coast as a whole. While no particular admission was made, however, it is more than likely that the Board was impressed with the benefits which could accrue from the establishment of at least a branch station at Prince Rupert and may be disposed to do something about it if and when the wherewithal becomes available.

DESPICABLE CRIME

CATTLE RUSTLING has always been considered a despicable crime, rating at one time as grave as murder, with which it often went hand in hand in the early days in the cow countries. Often, when police were not so readily available as they are today, the ranchers would take the law into their own hands to hunt out and exterminate the rustlers. It was sort of an unwritten law.

How much lower it is to find cattle rustling among the herds of the poor unfortunate flooded-out farmers of the Fraser Valley! There will be little sympathy with criminals of this sort. Public opinion would support the taking of harsh measures to punish them if the authorities are successful in apprehending them.

NEW DEAL FOR INDIANS

THE VIEWS of this newspaper in regard to the need for reform of the Indian Act have often been expressed so it gives us great pleasure to commend the report of the special committee of the House of Commons at Ottawa which makes drastic new proposals in regard to the status in the community of Canadians of our native friends.

It is fitting that the committee should recommend that they be treated as "human beings," responsible citizens instead of wards of the state and that they be accorded not only the rights and privileges of citizenship but that they also be entrusted with the responsibilities of such citizenship.

Too long now have we kept our Indians in subjection, treating them as children rather than adults of equality. We are sure that, if they are accorded these rights and responsibilities, they will live up to them with credit to themselves, also removing some of the problems with which the authorities are faced today as they try to govern these people with obsolete and childish regulations with which the old Indian Act is so replete.



WORLD TRADE WEEK FROM COAST TO COAST—Rheal Jolicoeur, formerly of Timmins, now of Toronto, Ont., who drives Canada's world-famous combines down the assembly line, on their way to 40 different world markets, is shown puzzling out his way. A third of his money came in a separate envelope, in recognition of World Trade Week, because a third of the average Canadian earnings come through export trade. Over 4,000 workers received split pay this week, in the Massey-Harris plants throughout Ontario. This was the first time that split pay has ever been inaugurated in a Canadian factory to increase awareness of national dependence on world trade.

SURGERY UPON HUMAN HEART

LONDON — Dr. R. C. Brock, surgeon, has reported to the British Medical Journal that he had successfully operated within the human heart. In all three cases, children had been born suffering from pulmonary stenosis, a disease of the heart which restricts blood flow to the lungs. One operation was a complete cure. With the other two, hope has been given for a normal life.

Miss Jeanne Thompson is arriving in Prince Rupert by plane today from Vancouver to spend a holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Thompson.

ATOMIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

OTTAWA—Reviewing developments at the Chalk River atomic plant, Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, minister of trade and industry, said that the day of atomic power was not right around the corner but important advances were being made in its development. He revealed that 250 scientists and technicians and 750 other workers were employed at the Chalk River plant.

Minister of Lands Returns to Victoria

TERRACE, B.C.—Hon. E. T. Kenney, minister of lands and forests and M.L.A. for Skeena, has returned to Victoria after visiting his home town here and other points in his constituency.

Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

It is proposed to amend the Indian Act of British Columbia, the main purpose being the gradual change to citizenship, from continuing as wards of the government. This, of course, would involve within itself, other minor changes. Few, if any, can dispute the view that the time has come for a review and study of the position of the native resident. He is certainly entitled to his full and just rights, if any one is, and to enjoy all the prerogatives and privileges legally belonging to him, with the changing times.

In a treatise on gardening, in a city like Prince Rupert, it is noted that a lack of staking can often mean making a mess of things. It has been observed, especially in mining regions.

Truth of the axiom that it's the newcomers who start a town receive most of the grief and do everything the hard way while those who register 40 years later absorb more gravity than grief becomes clearer every day. What happens to the newcomers? Oh, they never die! Only think they do. An old Canadian custom of gradually fading out, doing it by the hour instead of contract system.

Sir Reginald Watson-Jones, surgeon to King George is urging all doctors to use simple English when telling patients what is wrong with them. For one thing, it might permit us to look a little less heart-broken.

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JUDGMENT RESERVED IN COLLISION CASE

Judgment was reserved by Judge W. O. Fulton in County Court Monday afternoon in a civil action in which Nelson Bros. Fisheries is suing Andrew Hardy, of Prince Rupert for damages resulting from the collision of two automobiles in the highway eight miles from Prince Rupert last October.

Nelson Bros. is suing for \$390, claiming negligence on the part of Hardy, while Hardy has entered a counter-claim of \$183 against Nelson Bros. T. W. Brown is acting counsel for Nelson Bros. while Rod MacLeod is appearing for Hardy.

The two cars collided on a curving stretch of road at 7:30 on the morning of October 14, 1947 while the Nelson Bros. car, driven by Harry Robins, was proceeding from Port Edward to Telkwa and Hardy was heading from Terrace to Prince Rupert.

Shortly after the case was opened on Friday, the court and witnesses went out to take a view of the accident scene, about 400 yards on the Prince Rupert side of the eight-mile post.

Evidence of witnesses was heard on Friday and argument by counsel Monday afternoon.

In argument, Mr. MacLeod contended that the collision was a result of contributory negligence by both drivers and urged that resulting costs be shared equally.

Mr. Brown argued that the negligence was wholly on the part of Hardy and that, since there was no contributory negligence, the total damages should be borne by Hardy.

Evidence was also given by Constable Gordon Simons, provincial police constable, at that time stationed at Port Edward and who investigated the collision.

You saw it in the Daily News!

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CANADIAN NATIONAL

Was Greatest Peace Battle

Canada's Armed Forces Did Big Job in Flood Fighting

OTTAWA, B.C.—Canada's armed forces pitched their greatest peace-time battle in history when they attacked treacherous flood waters of the Fraser River, the Department of Defense said yesterday. It took three regiments, several squadrons of aircraft and more than fifty naval vessels to fight the national disaster that nearly swamped the whole of British Columbia.

Nearly three thousand officers and men were called to duty, top naval personnel worked day and night and planes completed 757 flights for over 1000 air hours.

M.P. Donates to Flood Relief

Prince Rupert Branch of the British Columbia Flood Emergency has received a cheque for \$25 from H. G. Archibald, M.P. for Skeena. Mayor Nora Arnold, campaign president, said today.

Kinsmen Providing Ottawa Wading Pool

OTTAWA—Before more than 300 children gathered in McNabb Park here H. H. Cooper of the Kinsmen Club turned the first sod to start construction of a wading pool donated by the Kinsmen Club for the use of young folk.

Capt. Henry Doiron left on this afternoon's plane for Vancouver.

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When the frost is on the pumpkin and the fuddler's in the shack

—JAMES WHITCOMBE SEABURY

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