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A Real Urgency

THE RAPIDLY continuing deterioration of Booth Memorial School makes even more urgent the providing with a minimum of delay new school buildings in Prince Rupert, already notoriously behind the rest of the province in this regard. It is gratifying to see that the board of school trustees is making good progress on a \$900,000 program whereby at least a start will be made on the replacements that are long overdue.

We may have expressed our doubts about the priority of other municipal projects—such even as the new telephone scheme which we admit the voters have given their overwhelming blessing—But, as for the new school buildings, there can be no questioning the need for speedy action. The more speed the board is able to effect towards accomplishment of its plans the better the public will be pleased, we think, and, as soon as it gets the chance, will so express itself.

TRUMAN COMES THROUGH

APPRECIATING, apparently, that it was the common people who sat back and contributed to his great and surprising victory in the presidential election, Harry Truman, in his "State of the Union" message to Congress, came through with proposals to Congress which the average American must have been glad to hear. Mr. Truman went about as far as he could in what is, apparently, to be a policy of taxing the rich to help the poor. Some, of course, will be thinking he has gone too far. We can imagine there will be much railing in certain quarters and that there will be hard opposition to some implementations. However, Truman knows that he has the preponderance of public opinion behind him and so will Congress which can hardly but act accordingly whether it likes it or not.

Truman is going even a little further for the common man than did his illustrious predecessor, Franklin Roosevelt.

As for foreign policy, about which we will be hearing more from HST anon, his declaration to date is nothing more or less than what might have in consistency been expected.

WHERE WERE MUSIC LOVERS?

WHERE were Prince Rupert's music lovers last night? Certainly, there were not many of them at that superb recital which was presented at the Civic Centre with the noted Harry and Frances Adaskin as the featured artists.

If we are to have further visitations such as this there will certainly have to be a much more encouraging measure of support than was accorded this grand presentation.

We have heard it said in the past that one of the disadvantages of living in Prince Rupert was that such cultural and entertainment events as this were not available. Certainly they will not be available if they are interesting to no larger numbers than turned out last night.

THE SAME HERE

THE first thing this corner wants to register during the new year of 1949 is a protest against the weather this community was forced to submit to in the last few weeks of 1948. It was nothing less than putrid.

One of our colleagues in Anchorage, weary of 30-below weather, comes out flatly in his Daily Times with the statement that weather up there was tolerable until the U.S. weather bureau came to town and started keeping records. Since then, J. Pluvius, J. Arcticus and all the other makers of climate have been falling all over each other to set a new record, and until an unbeatable record has been set, there is no hope.

We always used to blame the local weather bureau but since it has been moved to a neutral corner on Annette Island, it is a little difficult to follow it around and see what sort of divining is being used to forecast things quite unnecessary and superfluous. Of course it's plain to anyone that the Annette Island colony had a big year-end celebration planned lasting from Christmas to New Year's, and that nobody on the Rock wanted any airplanes coming over to disturb their festivities. That's an easy enough one to figure out for the past week. But it's time to get back to normal and have some decent, comforting, warming rainfall, on which we're way behind for the year.

We need rainfall this year for power for the pulp mill and to assure a decent salmon run. If there's anything we don't need, it is more snow, cold winds and freezing weather. If something doesn't happen in this line right soon, we'll be for starting a fund to buy the weather man a one-way ticket to Moo.

—Ketchikan Chronicle.



BANK EXECUTIVE—Bertie Charles Gardner, M.C., who is president and chief executive officer of the Bank of Montreal. (CP Photo)

PRINCE RUPERT YEARS AGO

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Prince Rupert had 132.11 inches of moisture during 1923, according to Dominion Meteorologist H. O. Crewe—128.71 inches of rain and 34 inches of snow. The snow was calculated as 34 inches of water.

The city had 46 fire calls in 1923 with fire losses estimated at \$22,919. Insurance paid totalled \$21,907.

Construction of a 290 foot steel scow for Hecate Straits Towing Co. was expected to be carried out by the drydock. The job would be the largest carried out there since the construction of the freighters Canadian Scottish and Canadian Britisher at the end of the war.

Thirty-Five Years Ago

Track laying at the end of the steel was held up for a few days waiting the completion of a small amount of grading. Re-commendment of the work would see track put down to the south end of Fraser Lake at mile 338, enabling the contractors to get their supplies over the ice from that point.

The Dominion steamer Gannet left with mail for Skidegate.

Superintendent W. C. C. McLean ordered a new sidewalk laid from the station and waterfront across the G.T.P. reserve below Sixth Street.

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Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

And so, the cost of newspapers in Canada and the United States keeps climbing because production expenses are higher. New Year saw the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph go from three to five cents a copy. But, after all, there is nothing to be alarmed about. For a small coin, still, one can learn a lot, shortly after it happens. In 1815, no one in Canada had heard of the battle of Waterloo until weeks after the event had taken place. And it certainly was news.

Newspaper staffs down east, where winter is a fixture for four months out of twelve, and when horses were not unknown, would enjoy their annual sleigh drive dinner and dance. An experience like that is enlivening. In soaring spirits (if it's anything like it used to be) and with jingling bells, glowing faces and everybody half-famished, they halted at some roadhouse miles from town, to invade the premises and inhale fragrance from the general direction of a country kitchen.

If the Queen Charlotte Islands and Newfoundland could exchange glances and scrutinize the country between, the empty immensity of it all might be enough to make one ache. The eastern and western islands are opposite and from sea to sea the new wall, map just arrived, reveals these lonely looking regions lying away north of where transcontinental railways span a continent, and settlements amount to anything. But who knows the truth? Who can guess what may be hidden away in the white wilderness, with not the name of even a village: just red lines denoting borders, and scattered over with dots of blue, meaning lakes large and little, and how far, far away.

Encourage, by all means, the suggestion that the establishment intended for fisheries research, moved from Prince Rupert to Vancouver during the war, be returned to this city, where it belongs. The impression at the time was that it would not remain south any longer than could be helped. The war ended in 1945 and this is 1949. It's time for a change. If Vancouver had had her way, years ago, part of the local drydock would have been towed there.

One of the innumerable yarns told about the subtle ways of Sir John A. Macdonald is how a friend, noting the flakes falling for days, and accumulating in great drifts across the white landscape, kept muttering his imprecations. And old Sir John



CANTERBURY'S SON TAKES CATHOLIC BRIDE — Henry Pears Fisher, oldest son of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is shown with his bride, the former Felicity Sutton, as they left the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Redeemer in London after their marriage. Although the bridal story had been headlined as the most controversial wedding since the Duke of Windsor's, there were only a few onlookers. The Archbishop of Canterbury is England's top Anglican clergyman. He was not at the ceremony, which was performed outside the altar rail and without the formal nuptial mass. Other members of the Fisher family attended.

ERNEST WOODS IS REMARRIED

Ernest A. Woods, Prince Rupert's first city clerk, was married in Vancouver on December 29, according to an announcement received by Magistrate W. D. Vance who was city treasurer during Mr. Woods' regime as clerk. For many years Mr. Woods has resided in Vancouver. His first wife passed away several years ago.

MARRIAGE AT TLELL

Mrs. Grace Yelf Becomes Bride of Kenneth Richardson

A pioneer Prince Rupert girl and a member of one of the earliest families to settle on the Queen Charlotte Islands were united in marriage at a quiet ceremony which took place at the Dunes, Tlell, on New Year's Eve. The bride was Mrs. Grace Yelf, widow of the late Capt. Don Yelf and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Shockley, now of Vancouver and many years ago living in Prince Rupert. The groom was Kenneth Richardson, son of the late Mrs. A. L. Richardson of Tlell. The marriage ceremony was performed by Stipendiary Magistrate Eric Richardson, brother of the groom. Witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Francis Richardson. The couple will reside at Tlell.

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WINNIPEG ARRIVAL FROM EAST AFRICA—Despite his illness little 10-month-old Stewart Fumerton manages to smile for the photographer as he arrives in Winnipeg at the end of a 9-000-mile flight from his home in Nairobi, Kenya colony, East Africa. Stewart was stricken with infantile paralysis about four weeks ago and was flown to Canada for treatment on recommendation of Nairobi doctors. He made the flight with his mother, Mrs. Barbara Fumerton, and his three-year-old sister Vivian.

SWISH... into the New Year

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HEARS MOTHER IN EDINBURGH

For the first time in twenty-five years Capt. W. F. Robertson, master of C. G. S. Essington, yesterday heard the voice of his mother, Mrs. Robert Robertson, and the long distance telephone conversation between Prince Rupert and Edinburgh, Scotland, was mutually thrilling. Capt. Robertson had tried to get his call through in 1924 but the connection was made then. However, it was successfully made yesterday with Vancouver and London the immediate points. Mrs. Robertson was keenly delighted at her son's voice.



MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, former first lady of the United States, and Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon explain to the press how a meeting of the general assembly is conducted at the Palais de Chaillot. Dr. Malik is chairman of the social and humanitarian committee of which Mrs. Roosevelt is a member.

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