

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited
J. F. MAJOR, President H. G. PERRY, Vice-President
Subscription Rates:
By carrier—Per week, 25c; per month \$1.00; per year, \$10.00
By mail—Per month, 75c; per year, \$8.00.
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

An Invaluable Service

TONIGHT is Red Cross night in Prince Rupert. As canvassers spread through the city to ask for the support which will enable the Red Cross to carry on its work of mercy, it is pertinent to remember they are helping to further an idea which was conceived in suffering.

One day 94 years ago a young Swiss, Henri Dunant, was a neutral spectator at the terrible Battle of Solferino in Italy. At the day's end, the battleground was littered with some 40,000 dead and wounded victims of the conflict.

Horrified by the suffering of the unattended men, Dunant organized groups of volunteers to serve them, bought supplies for their use, and worked personally as attendant and nurse.

Still haunted by the memory three years later, Dunant published a pamphlet proposing that in every country voluntary aid societies be formed to render aid to the victims of war or peacetime disaster.

This was the birth of the Red Cross. The proposal was accepted by representatives of 12 nations meeting at Geneva. In honor of Dunant's nationality, a red cross on a white background—the Swiss flag with colors reversed—was chosen as the symbol of the new movement.

It is timely to recall this history because to this day the Red Cross, now appealing for help, has faithfully and courageously adhered to the precepts on which it was founded. The mercies which Dunant performed at Solferino are being repeated in Korea and at other scenes where death awaits.

In a world of hazards and adversities, the hand of the Red Cross is proffered to heal and guide. Disregarding all other reasons why we should support the Red Cross, we are left with the single implacable one that it is an organization we cannot do without.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Says a newspaper headline: "Sociologists are trying to determine the cause of a decline in the number of marriages." Notwithstanding the recent cut in the cost of living, it might be that many a man feels he can scarcely afford even to stay single.

RED VISITORS

British Columbia has long been famed for salmon and halibut, but until lately we had to go elsewhere in the west for fresh lobsters in quantity. Today New Brunswick's Deer Island pound is doing business as never before. Largest in the world, the product is being shipped to this coast on a scale that stabilizes the industry. Every day fresh lobsters are shipped direct across the continent to tickle the palates of Californians and Mexicans, and every night a refrigeration car leaves St. Andrews for Boston laden with delectable food for the finest tables of New England.

Dr. W. B. Clayton, one of Prince Rupert's earliest dentists, is renewing old friendships. Here all of 40 years ago, he has been making his home in New Zealand for many a year. He once took an active share in

local affairs and was through the First Great War. In that struggle he performed important administrative duties where dentistry was concerned.

Many a person is a whale of an acrobat but never is aware of it. How often is he heard to hint that he not only has his nose to the grindstone, he also has, he says, his back to the wall.

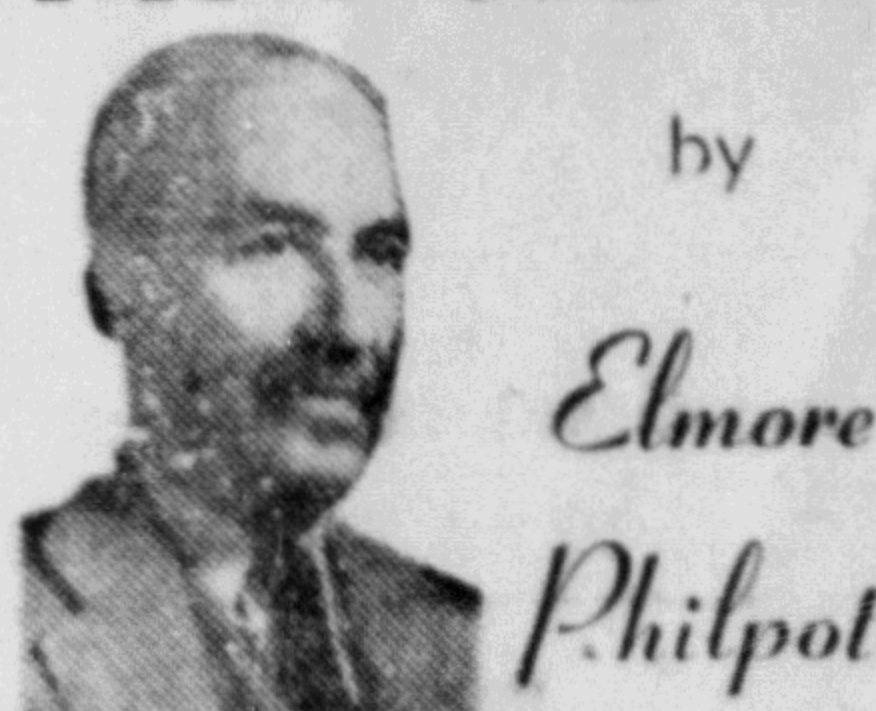
An Edmonton magistrate has resigned, his salary of five thousand being insufficient. Of course, Edmonton is where the oil comes from and anything much under ten, when discussing money matters, should be thought of as casual conversation.

WHAT'S THE IDEA?

Sex in literature is becoming bolder, but then it's bold anyway. Books are on the market introducing what might be described as the extinction of male and female in the general scheme of the social system. Brother—likewise sister—here's something to chew on.

A new moon was visible here Tuesday evening and the only thing to do when that happens is take it as it comes and hope for the best.

As I See It



Money for Old Vets

I HAVE a rather anguished letter from the executors of the estate of the late Walter L. Payne who left a good sized chunk of money to certain needy veterans.

They say they are being deluged with letters from all sorts of people who have received badly garbled versions of how much money there is, and who is entitled to how much of it.

They say that a lot of people are bound to be sadly disappointed because some press and radio reports (not mine) gave people the wrong ideas. Old vets of the Boer war are sending in medals and faded discharge certificates. Lawyers have written for clients. There are even applications from war widows, and believe it or not, from Ex-WAACS of the second world war, who are now married!

HERE IS the latest information as supplied by Eric H. Gilmer. The fund is for NEEDY (and only for NEEDY) ex-Imperialists who served in the British forces before 1915. It is also limited to men who served at or near the old "shilling per day" rate—that is in the ranks. Nobody who has received a pension or similar financial help through the Canadian government is eligible.

If all these conditions are met, applicants may receive grants up to \$250 per person. But each application will have to be passed by proper authorities.

THE EXECUTORS point out that the will of the man who left the money (Walter L. Payne) is still before the courts for final interpretation. They do not want a large number of old vets and their families and friends to get all worked up, only to be disappointed. They say they will do their level best to see that the terms of the will are carried out.

Here is the address again: Eric H. Gilmer, Executor Payne Estate, Box 1146, Victoria, B.C.

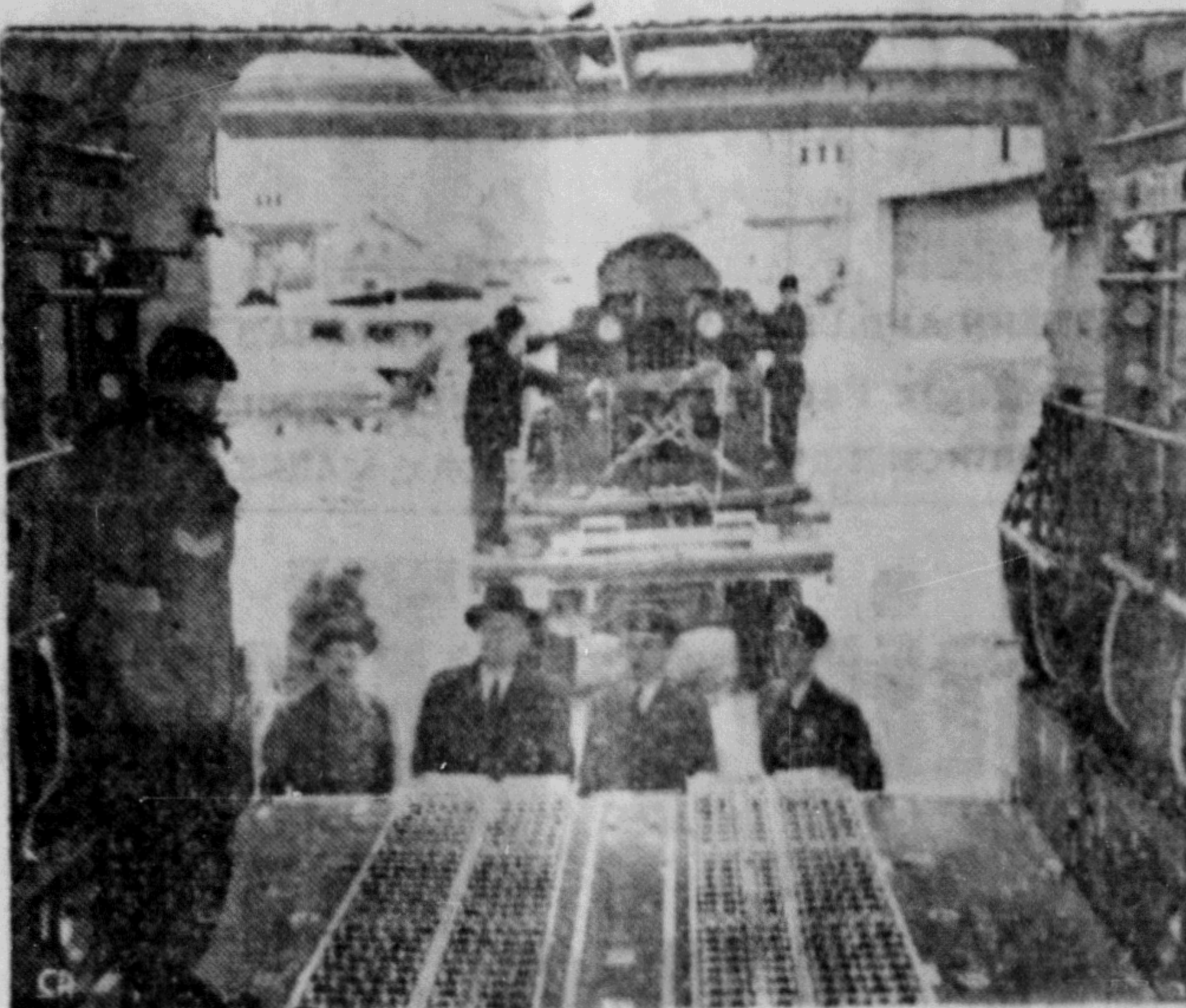
COME TO think of it, what a downright shame that any person should have to leave any money to help out "needy" old Imperial veterans—or for that matter needy older people of any kind.

We in Canada have made great strides toward setting up a really good old age security system. The universal pension plan, at age 70, was a good beginning.

Mark my words, it won't be too long now till we get what is now the \$40 at 70 scheme down to \$60 at 60. It is ridiculous to say where is the money coming from? It will come from exactly the same place that the \$40 at 70 comes from—namely from ourselves. Pension plans are simply universal, compulsory savings plans, put on a systematic national basis.

I THINK fairly highly of the present government at Ottawa. They are as good a federal lot as I remember, and when I compare them with governments in other countries—or even in some provinces (enough said) the Ottawa Liberals look not too bad.

But I would have a hard time forgiving them unless at this session they amend the WVA act to ease the lid on extra earnings for old vets trying to stay alive.



DEFENCE MINISTER CLAXTON inspects the interior of an RCAP C-119 transport plane, known as a flying boxcar, while on a visit to the Canadian joint air training centre at Rivers, Man. Left to right: Capt. E. A. McLellan, in charge of the air supply centre; Mr. Claxton; Group Capt. J. Collipotts and Air Vice-Marshal S. W. Coleman. The jeep in the background is ready to be loaded into the plane.

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

The Prime Minister is painfully disappointed with the present session of Parliament. Characteristically, he is taking no pains to conceal his displeasure from his own political followers.

Behind the closed doors of the Liberal caucus Mr. St. Laurent has indicated plainly that he doesn't want to hold another session of Parliament as it is now constituted. Instead, he wants to hold a general election this fall so that the House which he will meet next time Parliament assemblies will be a new one.

His attitude is more than a little disconcerting to the Liberal MPs. These gentlemen were beginning to wonder if it wouldn't be possible to trade in their now disappointed hopes for an election this spring for an assurance of an election in the spring of 1954. So far Mr. St. Laurent has turned thumbs down on the proposition.

PARLIAMENT'S FAILURE

The Prime Minister's indictment of the present session is its failure in his eyes to recognize the importance of the Coronation as the outstanding event of the year. His own evaluation of the occasion is that its symbolic significance is so great that no event should be allowed to compete with it in public interest. It was mainly on these grounds that he ruled out a general election this spring. He believed that no diversionary interest should be allowed to compete for the public spotlight while it was focussed on the Coronation scene.

It followed logically that Mr. St. Laurent expected the present session to share his views to the point of transacting its business expeditiously and proroguing early in April. That would leave the government time to complete its own Coronation arrangements comfortably and without any pressure of last-minute rush. But the Commons has failed notably to rise to the Prime Minister's level of urgency in respect to the Coronation. Instead, it has dragged its business even more slowly than is its normal custom. The prospect now is that prorogation, if it does come before the Coronation, will win the race only by the narrowest of margins.

The result is that Mr. St. Laurent is just plain disgrusted. His followers now would like the election to go over to 1954 so that another sunshine budget



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Ancient Coach Parked in Banff Garage

CALGARY — Earl Gammon has a coach parked in his garage at Banff that's more than an heirloom. Its value has been estimated at \$25,000.

This is the coach that carried the Prince of Wales—later Edward VII—from Picton to Truro, N.S., in 1860. Many years later it carried Queen Elizabeth, then Princess Elizabeth, and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Calgary Stampede grounds.

At the time of King Edward's visit the coach had been put on the Picton-Truro run by an American named Hiram Hyde. Earl Gammon's father, William, bought it from Hyde for his stage-coach line from Picton to Amherst.

When the railway put the stagecoach line out of business in 1890 the elder Gammon arranged to have the old coach preserved. It was placed in a museum before it was shipped out west.

Gammon has always shown the coach in public at Banff with two horses, but it was designed for a team of four. Gammon says he has to get along with two because he can't find anyone who can properly drive a four-horse team.

— MILESTONES

40 Years Ago Today

F. G. Dawson announced he has purchased the wholesale grocery business of W. J. McMillan & Co. Ltd.

Prince Rupert residents will be seeing for the first time a new advance in motion pictures known as Durbar in Kinemacolor.

30 Years Ago Today

A raging storm disrupted electric light and telephone service several times in the past two days but service crews quickly remedied the damage.

The Princess Mary arrived in port three days late, being de-

20 Years Ago Today

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. celebrated their silver anniversary when they married with a party.



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