Prince Rupert Daily News

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No Place For Them

ANYONE who believes that child neglect in Prince Rupert is confined to the cases that appear in court should mull over this one for a while.

In the crisp weather of Christmas Eve a little boy was discovered by passers-by wandering about the street, clad in nothing but his undershirt. He was wretchedly cold and crying his heart out.

When they asked him where he lived, he took them to a house which at first glance appeared to be empty. There were no lights on and there was no sign of life. Entering and still hearing nothing, they flicked on the lights and made their way to the kitchen where they were shocked to find two more small children in scanty clothing huddled over half a bowlful of sugar and desperately cold.

The youngsters' new friends at once went to work to heat up the stove and explored the kitchen for more food. There was nothing but the bowl of sugar.

It was during this that they made their next awful discovery. Behind the stove they saw a small form which, in the shadow, they first took to be a dog. A closer look showed it to be a fourth child, hardly more than a baby and sound asleep from fatigue and misery.

Meanwhile, a neighbor who had joined the scene undertook to find the parents. They were down town having a heavy celebration which they were persuaded to leave to rejoin their children.

There this particular story comes to its sombre end. All the makings of disaster were there but the axe did not fall, so the incident passed into its dismal obscurity.

But it is not the end of the bigger story of child neglect on a wider scale. No doubt the parents in this case were following a well-established pattern of living which is followed by many others they know. It starts with the casual premise that "the kids can look after themselves" and goes through all the easy excuses until it becomes a matter of indifference whether the kids can look after themselves or not.

In this respect Prince Rupert is little different from any other city. To the shame of humanity, the same thing is happening all the time everywhere, so no attempt should be made to single out this populace as callous towards its children. On the contrary, its general attitude is quite the reverse. By the work of its Civic Centre, service clubs and other private groups, Prince Rupert has set a standard of entertainment, instruction and occupation for children which few other cities can match.

The weak point is in dealing with cases of neglect where the family life is so decayed that removal of the children is the only remedy. Many such cases exist in the city at this moment, known to officials and crying for action, but the remedy must be delayed until a new home for the children can be found.

The predicament has reached a point where a case causing sufficient trouble to get into court presents more problems afterwards than it did before. Primarily there is need of a receiving station where the children can be lodged and looked after until permanent arrangements can be made for their care.

Citizens of Prince Rupert should be alert to this need and endeavor to correct it. It would be well also to keep our welfare officials advised of any cases which may not have reached their attention. Only through the heartfelt concern of all in this matter can we hope for action.

Meanwhile a Christmas Eve for four children in a deserted house has passed as a pretty poor one, and we cannot help at this moment wondering how that little tyke behind the stove is getting along.

— MILESTONES —

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today

Mr. and Mrs. W. Fulton arrived from Victoria this morning on the Prince Rupert to take up permanent residence in the city, where Mr. Fulton will practice law.

* * *

Mayor Newton was asked today to speak at a public meeting called by T. D. Pattullo.

30 Years Ago Today

Itwas announced yesterday the Drum Lummon Mine will immediately commence shipping 3000 tons of ore a month to Anyox smelter.

20 Years Ago Today

At the masquerade dance staged last night by the Eagles' Lodge, music was supplied by Charlie Balagno's orchestra and Robert Peacock was master of ceremonies.

10 Years Ago Today

The Junior Chamber of Commerce has been advised by the Postmaster General's Department at Ottawa that it is not in a position to institute street delivery service in Prince Rupert at this time.

As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

THIS IS A LETTER to David Dubinski, who lives at 413 North Seventh Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Dear David:

I see by the Milwaukee Journal that you sent a dollar of your very own money to help Canada pay for the St. Lawrence Seaway, but that our Prime Minister sent it back, as the laws of Canada do not permit such gifts.

But I read the nice letter of thanks you got. Up here in Canada a lot of boys would be glad to get that picture, signed by our Prime Minister. It shows him dressed up like a real railway engineer, sitting at the controls of a locomotive. The only picture nicer than that one would be one showing our Prime Minister on the bridge of the first ship to sail through the new seaway.

As you are only eight years old, David, you are sure a smart boy to realize how important the St. Lawrence seaway will be to the city you live in—and to other cities, even ones out here in the west. Ships from every corner of the earth will soon be coming to your very front door. The things which you produce in your part of the country will be shipped out to any part of the world where they are needed and wanted. And the things which you folks want from other countries will be coming back in.

By the way, David, I bet you never thought of this. The seaway is to be called the St. Lawrence seaway and the man whose government gave Canada the "go ahead" signal to build it is also named St. Lawrence—because St. Laurent is just the French-Canadian way of saying St. Lawrence.

Thanks again, Dave, and I hope a good many Canadians send you picture postcards or something like that, just to show you we really do appreciate your offer to help. You are a good neighbor, boy, and that's the finest thing anybody can ever be.

Yours truly,
Elmore Philpott

* * *

THE BRIGHT Milwaukee boy is only one of a vast number of U.S. citizens who have become aware of the giant goings-on in Canada.

The Milwaukee Journal, for instance, has already run over twenty feature articles in a series called "Canada's New Century." They are by Austin C. Wehrwein, and help to bring Canada and Canadians really alive in the minds of readers below the line. Other publications are doing the same sort of thing.

I saw only one tiny error in Mr. Wehrwein's article which is titled "Busy British Columbia is the 'Texas' of Canada." He writes "B.C. claims to be one of the most beautiful parts of the western hemisphere." That should read "B.C. is the most beautiful part of the western hemisphere, and is unsurpassed even by the jewel-like lakes of Kashmir or the majestic Switzerland mountains.

West-East Gas Pipeline Seen

PORT ARTHUR (CP)—An executive of Trans-Canada Pipelines Ltd., says he is confident permission will be granted his company to build a natural gas pipeline from Alberta to eastern Canada.

Douglas M. Fraser of Toronto Tuesday said he expects approval of the project will be obtained when the Alberta Petroleum and Natural Gas Board meets in April.

If approval is obtained, work would start in the west in spring, 1954. It would be extended from Winnipeg to Montreal the following year.

Parking Metres Bring Revenue To Vancouver

VANCOUVER (CP)— Vancouver motorists plunked about 4,000,000 nickles and pennies—a total of $189,600—into downtown parking metres in 1952.

Biggest haul made by the 1,698 nickle metres and 71 penny ones was the more than $1,700 collected in September.

This year's collections topped 1951 by more than $39,000.

Victoria Report

... by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—It appears now very definitely we're going to have cocktail lounges in B.C.

The Stevens report is so far an official secret, but contents of such reports have a way of leaking out.

Besides, the people of B.C. last June, in a plebiscite, said they want cocktail lounges that is, liquor served with meals.

On a recent visit to Washington State I visited several cocktail lounges and came away with the impression that there is nothing wrong with them. They are clean, attractive, though in most there could be a little more light, and generally they don't encourage heavy drinking. It's too expensive per drink to encourage much drunkenness. Certainly they're a big improvement on our beer parlors.

In one lounge I had a sherry. It was served in a sparkling glass, with twisted stem, and the sherry gleamed and glinted. This encouraged leisurely drinking. The surroundings were pleasant, and so there was no necessity to gulp the sherry and have another. It took an hour to consume two glasses. I couldn't help but contrast this to our beer-parlor drinking habits, when, in an hour, the average person has about 10 glasses.

British Columbians may welcome cocktail lounges, not merely as such, but because they'll no doubt cut down on heavy guzzling.

ray... Reflects and Reminisces

Work hard save your money and who knows some day you may be able to pay your taxes in a single instalment.

EXCLUSIVELY A DEGREE!

Stephen Leacock was once asked by a McGill student concerning the terms "recession," "depression" and "panic." He's said to have declared it's all a matter of degree. A recession is when you tighten your belt. There is no belt to tighten in a depression, and when there are no pants left to hold up it's a panic.

It is asserted by an astronomer that a day is forty-eight hours long. The day he spent in a Winnipeg hotel must have been rainy, or at least a shade showery.

One thing that makes you sort of hesitate to part with the old car is the price of a new one.

YOU CAN SENSE IT

No matter what the date of voting, the Dominion general election may be said to have been launched, although weather to a considerable extent remains unchanged.

Well, a change of some sort is usually welcome. For a long time, it's been "a moist temperature from the Pacific." Since Monday we've been harkening to "coolness from the north."

ALAS, FOR SOC

Sometimes it's not so simple, finding out how to spell. History, too, has us guessing. For example there was the boy who wrote that Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

We fly, yet risks still come high. Twenty-seven killed near Dublin Monday. Who would go back to yesterday? Once, what is today the New York Central Railway, consisted of six separate little lines between New York and Albany. The traveller changed trains six times, presented seven tickets and paid fares of from three to six cents a mile.

Returning here from Seattle, I couldn't help but note how times are changing, how the man with money is being forced to go down the social scale, and the man with little money is enabled to move up. In other words there's a generally leveling off, and I particularly noted it in the dining room of the steamer. Time was when the man with money could have a sumptuous meal, complete with finger bowls and fancy service. The man without much money had a sandwich on deck.

The big meals have now been abolished. There are no courses any more. There are no finger bowls; the vegetables are served on your plate, not in separate dishes. Now practically everyone can afford that kind of meal. It's sad, in a way, the disappearance of the silver finger bowls and other elegances, but it's good to know there's that leveling off we all say we want.

We all make mistakes. Social Crediters made a big one when they said, in the election campaign, that they'd make hospital insurance voluntary.

Now they know voluntary hospital insurance won't work. So the government is doing it's level best to encourage people to pay their premiums.

Yes, it's a good idea, to pay those premiums, for our own protection. Always remember that $500 doesn't last long in a hospital these days.

Hospital insurance is one of the best social reforms that has come to British Columbia in many years. Let's all get together to keep it, to make sure that it works. And, while we're about it, let's not forget Byron Johnson who brought it in, who fought for it right down the line and who went to defeat because he wouldn't compromise. Now, Boss Johnson has been proved right, so let's not forget to thank him now and then.

Soon the MLAs will be gathering in the Legislative Buildings—more than half of them fresh to legislative halls. They'll be a nervous lot; we'll hear many a jittery maiden speech, but it's surprising how quickly an MLA gets hold of himself, and soon finds his way around.

We won't really realize how the public changed the Legislature's face last June 12 until we see all the MLAs sitting in their places in the blue-carpeted, marble-pillared chamber of the province's most important law-makers on Feb. 3.

Jaycees Add Two Members

Membership of the Junior Chamber of Commerce is now 45, it was reported at an executive meeting last night at the home of President Bert Jefferies.

Two new members, Dick Bell and Reg Philips, were approved.

Hugh MacKenzie was named chairman of the house committee and John MacDonald chairman of the projects committee.

The Alec Hunter Memorial Trophy fund has reached $200 and final plans are being made for a plaque and the method of deciding the method of presentations.

It was decided to give the Parent-Teacher Council full support and co-operation on their "scotch lite" campaign for the safety of school children on

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

To maintain its reputation as a generally forward-looking as well as a very august body, the Cabinet in recent days has been checking up to make sure that it has on hand a sufficient stock of that frequently scarce but always invaluable commodity known as patience.

It figures that it's going to need it in a big way in the weeks immediately ahead. The Churchill-Eisenhower talks are the reason.

SILENCE WALL

The British Prime Minister and the President-elect have met already, but the way the Cabinet Ministers here have the situation figured out, no one is going to have any authoritative inkling as to the ground they have traversed for a good three weeks or more.

For "Ike" does not formally and officially become the President of the United States until the 20th of the present month. And until that time it would be highly improper for him to usurp the position in effect by entering into official discussions with the Chieftain of another state.

Hence no communique that will mean anything substantial is expected from the first talks which the two statesmen will hold before the great Churchill goes for his two weeks' holiday to Jamaica.

Yet none of the Cabinet Ministers here believe that at their first talks "Ike" and "Winny" will confine their remarks to the weather. The conviction is that these two vital figures cannot get together without the resulting discussions being of a vital and dynamic nature. While decisions undoubtedly will be postponed until after the Inaugural Ceremony on Jan. 26, the Cabinet here figures that the first meeting between the two statesmen will set the pattern for the second series of talks and will mark the real occasion when the two minds will meet.

CABINET UNHAPPY

Convinced in this view, the Ottawa Cabinet Ministers are frankly unhappy about the three weeks' wait of silence that promises to surround the first Churchill-Eisenhower meetings. In the matter of less than a week Parliament will be sitting again. The Ministry is bound to be under pressure to supply information to the House on the progress of discussions in which Canada is bound to have a vital interest, whether they touch upon problems of trade, the cold war, or European defence and policy in the Pacific. It doesn't relish the prospect of having to reply that it has no information to give.

But that is the outlook that it faces. So far there has been no move to cut the government here in at any stage of the Churchill-Eisenhower talks.

Natural Food Aids Children In Teeth Care

SYDNEY, Australia (CP)—The youth welfare association of Australia reports after a five-year trial that children who eat natural foods have much less tooth trouble than other children.

In a report on children at the association's homes, the institute of dental research says that 22 per cent of them have dental caries compared with 96 per cent of other Sydney children. The average number of damaged, missing or filled teeth in children at the home is one-half tooth per child, compared with nine in other Sydney children.

The association says the small amount of tooth trouble is because half the children's food is eaten in its natural state in the form of milk, salad, vegetables, fruit, nuts, dates and honey. Cooked food is mostly confined to porridge, molasses, prunes, eggs, unpolished rice and such.

PRE-NATAL EFFECTS

The directors of the association's homes say there would be no dental decay in the orphans and abandoned children in their care if their mothers had had "rational and balanced nutrition" before the babies' birth, and if the children could be completely protected from "contamination by the detrimental dietary habits of their school mates and the community generally."

The hit at the community is justified by the fact that Australians have about the worst teeth in the world. Dentists say the most immediate cause is the excess of carbohydrates in Australians' diet—too much sugar, white bread, biscuits and sweets and not enough fruit or vegetables. Added to this, they say, is a serious shortage of dentists.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

UNITED NATIONS—Publishing Division has developed a simple and inexpensive method of bookbinding used for reference volumes. The method which has attracted the attention of libraries in various parts of the world requires only an ordinary paint brush, cold padding glue and an improvised rack for stacking the volumes. Shown demonstrating a step in the technique he helped develop is UN staff member William L. Watson who is in charge of the binding service.

HERE And NOW

By LARRY STANWOOD

If that hubbub on the street corner, over coffee cups, and elsewhere downtown is the shadow which a future event casts before it, it isn't hard to foresee what appearances will be taken on by the Feb. court of revision.

Everybody is up in the air who in the past few days has received the little slips of paper showing assessment of their property has been boosted.

In numerous cases, this boost shows up very substantially—even to more than 100 per cent. The property owners so affected are most anxious because they believe their taxes also will be doubled or greatly increased.

They believe, too, that because only certain sections of the city have been reassessed for the first time in many years, they will bear the biggest burden of taxes for the next few years, thus subsidizing other owners where the assessor has not yet called.

This could happen, but does not have to, necessarily.

First off, there are good reasons why the city is being reassessed, with employment of the first full-time assessor. Both property and improvements have risen sharply in value in the last 15-20 years, and so has the cost of operating a city.

The high taxation rate here—70 mills—is due to low assessment, generally. Yet, homes and businesses which have been established recently suffer particularly for they come under the same rate yet are assessed at today's values.

The city has planned its reassessment program as a "reorganization" program. It will, after completed, not only equalize the present discrepancies but accomplish the main purpose of reducing the mill rate. Therefore, taxation on the whole should not be much greater, if any, unless the city finds operating costs have again spiralled. And then, taxation would be increased anyway.

But, as the reassessment program is going to take about two years before it is completed, there is danger of much discontent among ratepayers unless civic authorities take action.

If reassessments are allowed to stand each year as they are completed, property owners first assessed will be compelled to pay much more in taxes than those whose property was not reassessed until the end of the program two years from now.

This is easy to foresee, as well as the result. For instance:

John Brown's property and home in section 2 is similar in value as his friend's home in section 1. This year, section 2 may be reassessed, but section 2 has not. Mr. Brown finds his assessment has gone up a good deal, but also finds that his friend's place is still assessed at the old value.

Therefore, Mr. Brown is going to share a part of his friend's taxes when he goes to city hall to make his payment.

The only answer to this problem, it appears, is not to force the reassessments as the entire program has completed—at the end of years, or after all sections the city have been reassessed.

If it's equality that's wanted, then some such action is necessary.

An argument against the city's assessment holds that there is a danger in pricing city out of its favorable relationship with the rural districts in regards to school costs.

At present, the city is assessed at $7,719,795 for school tax purposes, while the rural district is valued at $3,771,546 which works out to a 47-53 per cent proportion, in favor of the city, in sharing school costs.

If the city's assessment is raised, its proportion will automatically go up, landing it in the previous unenviable position of bearing an 80-20 per cent load.

But there is a safeguard. As soon as the city's valuation is higher than the rural district the city can apply for a "board of equalization" which will adjust on the comparative valuation of rural vs city property.

The board would establish equality.

Civic officials claim that the only reason today the rural district—which contains Nelson Island Fisheries Ltd. cannery at Port Edward, several other canneries along the Skeena, and the proposed million dollar pulp mill at Watson Island—is assessed at a value of eight million is because the present assessment is so low.

There has to be equality in taxation, or it is certain that there will be many bones of contention, much discontent, unhappiness and therefore inefficiency in civic government—not to mention of its own unpopularity.

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