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Backbone of Community

IT WOULD do the ordinary citizen of Prince Rupert and more particularly the business man good to get out once in a while and see the fishing fleet in action. A representative of the Daily News had the opportunity at the end of the week to see a concentrated herring fleet—150 boats large and small, valued at \$10,000,000—catch more than \$100,000 of fish, (as landed in the packers where they were caught). There were eight hundred men on the job. It was a spectacular revelation to see at first hand an angle of the industry which is still the major factor that makes Prince Rupert click.

The most of us are familiar with the actual landing of the fish and many of us know a good deal about the processing. Probably fewer of us get out to see those hardy men of the sea at active work. They, after all, are the real backbone of the mainstay industry of Prince Rupert. They are the behind the scenes actors and a hardworking, daring group of people they are. We may hear at times of the big financial returns they may obtain in a short space of time, not thinking about the times when they do not do so well and the periods when their business is slack.

So let's give a hand to the toilers of the deep whose efforts have been vital in sustaining this community over four decades now and who, many of them in a second generation in Prince Rupert, are still going strong.

Hospitals Big Business

WE ARE REMINDED that hospitals everywhere are truly big business.

The general hospitals of British Columbia now have a capacity of 6,097 beds. The replacement cost of these hospitals and their equipment would be well over \$70,000,000.

The hospitals employ 8,500 people—nurses, technicians, dietitians, cooks, housekeepers, laundry-workers, engineers, repairmen, clerks, and many others. It is true to state that hospitals employ a wider range of professionals and trades than any business or industry of comparable size.

In 1951 the general hospitals of British Columbia have spent almost \$25,400,000 on operating costs.

This year the hospitals treated 200,000 patients, for a total of almost 2,000,000 days' care. More than 100,000 operations were performed, and some 28,000 babies were born.

Thirty years ago there were only 2,400 general-hospital beds in the province. The average length of stay was then more than fifteen days per admission.

True, our population has increased by 120 per cent, but that does not account for the much greater increase in hospital accommodation.

More people are going to hospital today than ever before.

Scripture Passage for Today

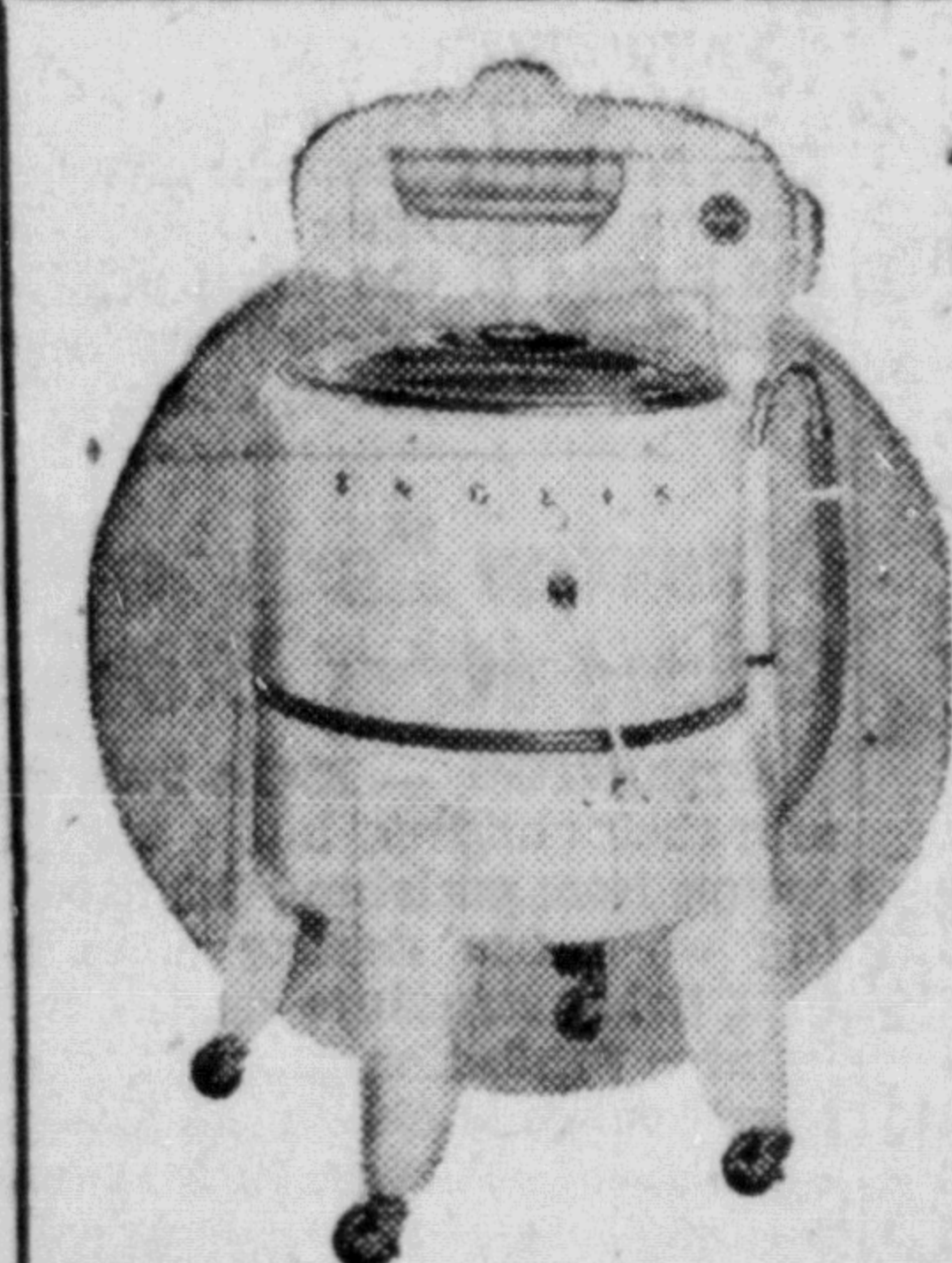
"Why are thou cast down, O my soul?"—Psalm 43:5

Kemano Man Buried Here

Requiem mass was held Monday for Michael Hall, 70, who died in Prince Rupert, General

Hospital January 7 following an accident at Kemano Bay. Father T. J. McNamara conducted the service.

There were no known relatives, although home address of the man was given as Vancouver. Burial was at Fairview cemetery, B.C. Undertakers were in charge.



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As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

That Tree of Liberty

(Last of three articles)

WHETHER or not Robert Burns wrote the poem The Tree Of Liberty, there is overwhelming evidence to show that he was fervently in favor of the French revolution.

However, he was no indiscriminate supporter of all its acts. For instance a fragment written in 1791 and entitled ON GLENRIDDILL'S FOX BREAKING HIS CHAIN he begins: Thou, Liberty, thou art my theme: Not such as idle poets dream. Who trick thee up a heathen goddess.

The above was an obvious reference to the attempted setting up in France of the Goddess of Reason as a new religion.

BUT ABOUT the main fact of Burns' support for the revolution there is no doubt. My two volume Life of Burns, by Rev. George Gilfillan, gives the whole background of everything he ever said or wrote.

By 1792 Burns was aflame with enthusiasm for the revolution. "He uttered a few fierce speeches and gave some rather daring toasts in private." The inevitable happened. The British government of that day was as fearful of pro-French sentiments as the Soviet government is now fearful of pro-American sentiments, or as the U.S. government is fearful of pro-Russian ideas.

Burns held a government job, as a customs collector, so naturally enough the then-equivalent of the Un-American Activities Committee cracked down on him. They held an inquiry and were thinking of dismissing him. But Burns had many friends and they staved off the final blow.

SOME of Burns' letters of this time are full of pathos and some wit. "He had sold his birthright for £50" was the way he put it. His grinding poverty and large family of dependents compelled him to hang on to his job. Maybe that was why he turned increasingly to drink.

Here is a letter dated 1794, to Mr. Stephen Clarke, Jun., Dumfries:

I was, I know, drunk last night, but I am sober this morning. From the expressions of Capt. — made use of to me, but I had no body's welfare to care for out my own, we should certainly have come, according to the manners of the world, to the necessity of murdering one another about the business.

The words were such, as generally, I believe, end in a brace of pistols, but I am pleased to think that I did not ruin the peace and welfare of a wife and family of children in a drunken squabble. Further, you know that the report of certain political opinions being mine has already brought me to the brink of destruction.

I dread lest last night's business may be misinterpreted in the same way. You, I beg, will take care to prevent it. I tax your wish for Mrs. Burns's welfare with the task of waiting, as soon as possible, on every gentleman who was present and state this to him, and as you please, show him this letter.

What after all was my obnoxious toast? "MAY OUR SUCCESS IN THE PRESENT JUSTICE OF OUR CAUSE" — WAR BE EQUAL TO THE toast that the most outrageous frenzy of loyalty cannot object to.

HERE in this one letter you get the deepest insight into the political side of Burns' life. He was a radical. But his family had to eat.

That is why we shall probably never know for sure whether Burns ever did write that TREE OF LIBERTY. For we can be sure if he did he would have to bind whoever had the manuscript not to publish it while he was alive.

That is why we shall probably never know for sure whether Burns ever did write that TREE OF LIBERTY. For we can be sure if he did he would have to bind whoever had the manuscript not to publish it while he was alive.

Kemano Strike Short-Lived

Tie-up of work in the big Alcan tunnel which will carry water from interior lakes to the Kemano power house was short-lived as a result of last week's brief strike.

Men who participated in the wildcat strike were quickly shipped out and, as quickly, replacement crews were brought in from Vancouver.

According to word from Kemano, work was proceeding at normal today.



STAND-INS FOR WORLD LEADERS—If Hollywood ever plans to make a movie about President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill, James Nuttall and William Tonkinson, both of Hamilton, Ontario, could be used as doubles for the famous statesmen. Tonkinson resembles the British premier so closely that people call him "Winnie" while Nuttall is frequently referred to as "Harry."

VICTORIA REPORT

... by J. K. Nesbitt

Interesting Political Days Ahead—Good Men Lost

VICTORIA.—It was a day of tense political drama, last Friday, when the Coalition government exploded with a suddenness that rocked the Legislative Buildings.

Premier Johnson marched from his office upstairs to the cabinet room. Immediately he arose and asked for the resignation of his Minister of Finance, Mr. Ansoncomb. Very few words were spoken. Mr. Ansoncomb, with his three Conservative cabinet colleagues, hurried immediately to his office. There they conferred for two hours behind locked doors. Then Mr. Ansoncomb announced he and the three ministers (Messrs. Eyres, Carson and MacDonald) would resign, that the 11 Conservative MLAs would sit in the House as the Opposition.

Thus ended the coalition and thus was Harold Winch ousted as Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Mr. Ansoncomb will get the \$2,000 special yearly allowance provided for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Ansoncomb immediately called for a general election. But he doesn't want one just yet, naturally. It will be much to his political advantage to sit a session as Leader of the Opposition. It will give him a chance to find his opposition feet after 10 years in the government. He'll be a spectacular Leader of the Opposition. In the government he has generally remained silent in the House. He thinks too much legislative talk a waste of time. But now he'll have to fight—and when Mr. Ansoncomb fights he puts on a good show. He's one of the best public speakers in British Columbia.

The forthcoming session will be intensely interesting. The Liberals won't have much of a House overall majority but they'll skate by. The Liberal cabinet ministers are inclined to say it's still a Coalition government—that the government still has three out-and-out coalitionists in the Legislature (Labor Minister John Cates, H. J. Welch and B. M. MacIntyre). This is a fine point and could be argued for many hours. It no doubt will be when the session opens.

It's too bad that, through the exigencies of politics, some good men have been lost to the government and the people. The four resigned members are able men. Mr. Ansoncomb has proved himself an efficient administrator of several government departments in recent years. This province has never had a better Minister of Public Works.

Five newsmen and three RCMP officers received careful attention at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Main, who recently turned a large and well-known home into an hotel.

Everyone on the little "unknown spit" on the northern point of the southern Queen Charlotte Island was not only kind but very helpful, and not the least of these were Roy Berryman and Rube Gillette, Queen Charlotte Airlines team who aided in transportation and search for possible survivors.

Sights Raised By Red Cross

Prince Rupert's share of the provincial Red Cross annual campaign objective of \$580,000 is \$5,500 this year—or \$500 more than last year, Stan Saville, local Red Cross president, announced today. He thought the quota had been raised because this area oversubscribed last year's quota by nearly \$1400.

Campaign here will probably be "kicked off" first week in March and will be conducted in a "one night's stand" as proved so popular last year, said Mr. Saville.

Annual meeting of the Red Cross branch is to be held as soon as "the weather warms up a little."

Meanwhile, Canada's objective for 1952 has seen a 4.4 per cent increase, or \$5,222,000, as announced by Hon. Leopold Macaulay, chairman of Canadian Red Cross Society central council.

Mr. Macaulay warned that essential services of the Red Cross would have to be curtailed or eliminated if the 1952 objective was not reached.



PONY EXPRESS RIDER—"Uncle" Jim Firky is believed the last Pony Express Rider in Canada. Now 93 and living in Hamilton, he likes to recall the '90s when he guarded the mails over the two-week, 600-mile round-trip between Fort Qu'Appelle and Prince Albert, Sask. His adventures included pursuit by Louis Riel's rebels and struggles through blizzards in the early days of western Canada. Now retired he still fondles his .45 calibre revolver and reminisces.

THE LETTERBOX

THEATRICAL GROUP

Editor, Daily News:
In your social column, January 19, the following was printed: "Apparently there may have been two motives underlying the production"—a drive for new Civic Centre members and for new recruits in the theatrical group." The first motive was a wrong guess. The director of the Civic Centre was handed a few written lines and asked if he would read them, intended only as a comedy.

As for a drive for new recruits in the theatrical group, nothing could be truer. It would be hard for an outsider to realize just how small our group is. Not only are we desperately short of actors (male and female), but urgently in need of people to help back stage. To complicate things further, we haven't even a director. (Personally, I feel we could even use a critical writer who could help us write better plays in the future.) Surely in a place the size of Prince Rupert there must be many talented people who could do a great deal towards building a better theatrical group for the community. Where is all this community spirit you read so much about?

I would like to add here that the people who "were roped in by the theatrical group" were good people who were kind enough to help us out.

We are very thankful the Daily News has such an honest critic, even though it wasn't easy to take the facts as he laid them down. Nevertheless, we know that some day, when we do put on a good play and the critic finds reason to praise us, it won't just be a lot of cheap flattery.

Thank you, Mr. Editor.

COAL RACKET?

Editor, Daily News:

I hope you can find a little space in your newspaper for this letter as it is written in the hopes of stopping a petty racket that has been going on in this town in regard to coal. When you order ten sacks you are apt to receive nine. One woman complained and received an extra one. Two of us were counting and, when I complained, I received an argument. I would advise everyone to keep count and perhaps put a stop to this petty racket. I understand they receive ample wages.

HONEST.



NEW LABOR ATTACHE—Pat Conroy, 48, former secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Congress of Labor, has been appointed labor attache at the Canadian embassy in Washington. Mr. Conroy, who will go to Washington in a few weeks, will be the second labor attache in the Canadian diplomatic service. For the last few years Canada also has had a labor attache in London.

(CP PHOTO)

Classified Ads Pay

ray ... Reflects and Reminisces

Who wrote "Beautiful Snow?" No one denies there is such a song but few if any, appear able to establish real authorship. It has been seen in print although not often. Today, perhaps more than long ago, it's hard to divorce "Beautiful Snow" from thoughts of satire.

DECEPTION

A Chicago girl sued for annulment of her marriage on grounds of fraud. She said her husband pretended to be a \$40 a day bricklayer when he was, in reality, only a banker.—Swing.

Winter is not a season, Sinclair Lewis, the novelist, used to say. It's an occupation.

Every January a lot of us think how much worse off this world would have been had no one named R. Burns never lived in it.

A JANUARY BIRTH

The burden of gaining and preserving peace, says President Truman, is going to cost every man, woman and child in the United States \$550. How do you like living in Canada?

Adults, not juveniles are chief buyers of questionable maga-

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