

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. MAGOR, 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.

## Railway Salesman

ALMOST every conceivable wisecrack has been squeezed from the initials of the Pacific Great Eastern railway, but it is difficult to avoid remarking at this point that those trying to sell the line are Progressively Getting Embarrassed.

Latest on the list is Premier Bennett who has discovered that Prime Minister St. Laurent is not in the market for railways, not even toy ones for his grandchildren.

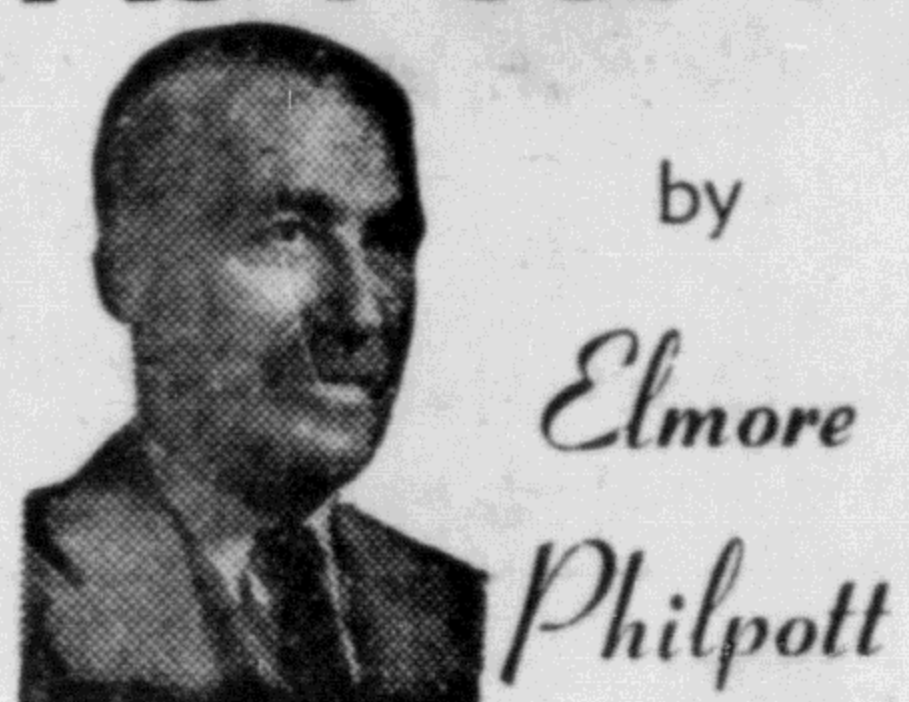
Obviously the Prime Minister's quip was intended for consumption outside B.C. Despite the fun poked at the PGE through the years, its future commands a great deal of serious attention in this province. Whether or not it is the best means of effecting a rail entrance into the Peace River country, it still has possibilities as a link between the central and southern parts of the province which so far have been barely realized.

Whatever else it may be, it is not a triviality. At the same time, Premier Bennett's approach as salesman seems to have left something to be desired. Although there has been considerable pressure to have a study made of other avenues into the Peace River block, the Premier stuck to the narrow idea that the PGE is the only way. Thus he was trying to sell a rich country with a specific, and perhaps unattractive, tag attached to it.

As a Social Creditor talking to a Liberal he had that much more resistance to overcome. In the circumstances, a northern PGE extension might have looked less like a pioneering move to open up new country than a political manoeuvre to join up with the rail lines of northern Alberta, where another Social Credit government is in control. Discussions between Premiers Bennett and Manning on that very subject are too recent to be forgotten.

It is understood that Premier Bennett's brief to the Dominion government contains other references to northern development, so he must be given credit for trying. It is to be hoped, however, he does not make the political issues so apparent that this development is less likely to take place than if he and his government attended to it by themselves.

## As I See It



### Good Old House

I HADN'T played hookey once since coming to parliament — but when the Christmas spirit began to get into the air I stole out on Friday afternoon and took the afternoon train.

My father and mother—both still going strong at age 88—live just west of Toronto. You can drive to our old family home in Hamilton in less than an hour.

It is strange how the great things of one's boyhood shrink in size when you revisit them. Fifty years later, our old home is a pretty grand place now, comparatively. It has been done all over in white, as befits the home of the mayor of a big city. But as we look up at it, the present fades and we remember away back when...

IT WAS in 1902 at the time of the year when some overwhelming impulse within you made you yearn for the out-of-doors. Mother had had her usual baby—one of the tribe of thirteen which eventually arrived. I figure that year's baby must have been about Number Seven.

The snow had already melted from the main streets. So in the hired horse drawn two seat sleigh Dad had to seek the side-streets.

Luck, destiny, fate—or as dad would say, then and now—the hand of God must have guided the horse to that high brick house at the foot of the mountain.

The minute that the sleighload of Philpotts looked at that an electric shock passed through the family. It stood visibly empty, with a home chalked "For Sale" sign tacked on the white picket fence.

The house itself was big, three stories high. It was good and solid, brick. It was decorated with the fancy woodwork which was the earmark of the last Victorian days. It had bay windows.

On the property was every known variety of fruit. There were scores of fine fruit trees, plums, cherries, apples. There were long rows of raspberries, currants. There was a big black walnut tree, and a couple of other nut trees, to boot. There was an enormous basswood tree. And in front across the acre and half property was a straight row of Canadian hard maples.

Beyond the house was "Hamilton mountain"—the pride and joy of every Hamiltonian and elsewhere.

There was one catch — just above us, on top of the hill we proudly called "mountain" was the mental hospital.

But in one of her flashes of razor wit mother brushed aside that objection: "We'll take it," flashed mother. "We will be far enough away from our neighbors that they will think the noise from our house is coming from the asylum."

See PHILPOTT Page 5

## Steve and Nancy Santa Claus



The story so far: Steve and Nancy are at Santa's house at the North Pole where they are going to take Santa's place while he takes a nap before his Christmas Eve ride.

CHAPTER V  
Santa led Steve and Nancy to a small door at the side of the living room.

Inside was a long, dark tunnel. "It's too cold to be wandering around outside up here at the North Pole," Santa said, lighting a candle, "so we have the tunnels connecting all the cottages and workshops."

Steve and Nancy followed Santa through the dark tunnel. Santa had a candle, but he was so big he almost filled the tunnel from side to side and very little light indeed got back to where the children were walking.

When they finally entered the next room the light was so bright it almost blinded them for the moment. When the children could see again, all they could see was books. Whole walls of books.

On three sides of the room, as high as the highest ladder could reach, there were books. Each row of books had a wide shelf under it. On these shelves and on the scores of ladders leading up to these shelves were hundreds of little men in colorful clothes with long pointed hats all busily working at the books.

Santa whispered, "These are the dwarfs who keep track of all the little boys and girls in the world, and whether they've been bad or good. We mustn't talk too loud or we will disturb them."

Each little dwarf carried two pens to write with, one over each ear. With a fearfully big tug a dwarf would pull a book from where it was standing out onto a wide shelf and open it to a certain page.

"Why, they're writing with both hands," Steve said.

"It's twice as fast as the ordinary way," Santa said, "but come now. We mustn't stand gaping all day. I must introduce Nancy to Tinker so he can tell her what she is to do."

Seated on a high stool at a big desk littered with papers was Tinker, Santa's assistant. He climbed down from the stool to meet the children, and after being introduced, said "All you will have to do, Nancy, is to answer questions and straighten out any difficulty that may arise. Oh, what a relief it will be to get some rest before the last minute rush!"

"Not quite so fast, there, Tinker," Santa said. "Before Nancy takes over her work here I want both the children to see the workshops and find out how the toys are made. Nancy will be back in a little while."

As they walked through the next tunnel Steve and Nancy wondered what the workshops would look like, but the last thing in the world they would have expected to find there would have been a circus tent. But, as they entered the workshop room, there it was, the biggest, most beautiful circus tent that ever was.

"A circus," yelled Nancy. "But it's not like any circus I've ever seen," added Steve. "Look at all the animals. They're not performing—they're working."

"Ho, ho, ho," laughed Santa Claus. "I thought this would surprise you. It's a circus, all right, but it is the strangest circus you ever saw."

"Quite some time ago this was

## Indians To Free War Prisoners

PANMUNJOM (R)—Lt.-General K. S. Thimayya today said Indian troops will not retain custody of war prisoners who have refused to go home after Jan. 22—clearing the way for their release as civilians.

The Korean armistice provides that unrepatriated prisoners are to be released 120 days after they were turned over to Indian custody—or Jan. 22.



SPENCE & MATUIK  
General Painting Contractors

## What every woman wants for Christmas

GENERAL ELECTRIC

F-90 Steam Iron \$24.50  
F-80 Iron \$14.50  
GE KETTLE... fast boiling electric kettle will earn a special "thank you" from someone on your gift list. \$14.50

RUPERT RADIO and ELECTRIC  
313 Third Avenue West  
Phone 644

Christmas used to drive me crazy!  
"Every year it was the same. Presents to buy and cash at low ebb. Running up bills... then I got smart. I started a special Christmas account\* at the Royal Bank, adding something each pay day... and leaving it there. This year I'm all ready for Christmas, with cash to pay for all the things that mean so much at this season of the year."  
\*You can have cash next Christmas, too. Decide now to open a special Christmas account early in 1954. It pays to do your Christmas saving early.  
THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA  
Prince Rupert Branch ..... J. E. Taylor, Manager  
Branches also in Terrace and Smithers

YOUR HOSPITAL INSURANCE PREMIUM IS DUE DEC 31  
Please return your billing notice with your premium payment directly to B.C. HOSPITAL INSURANCE SERVICE, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., or make payment through your local B.C.H.I.S. Office or Government Agent.

ray... Reflects and Reminisces  
Mornings of mid-December in the Fiji Islands where the Queen and Duke will arrive Thursday are either brilliantly sunny, with the sweeping, reef-sheltered bay a glittering sheet of tropical blue and gold, or dark with rain and the jagged, jungle-covered mountains to the west, looming fantastically through trailing curtains of mist.  
Now and then we hear from Canadian history in the House of Commons. E. T. Applewhite (Liberal) has been supporting Jean Francois Pouliot (Liberal) in this national flag business. He favors inclusion of the fleur-de-lis. "If it had not been for the wholehearted loyalty of French-Canadians between 1812 and 1814," he said, "there would not be any Canada today for which to design a flag."  
There's more than guns and salt beef in the Canadian Navy. It seems there's more than fourteen hundred books aboard the big carrier Magnificent, and the boys like to read. This is the Navy's largest floating library. Jack, have you perused any of Captain Marryatt's yarns? He could spin a good one.

Does your diet recommend Whole Wheat?  
PEEK FREAN'S VitaWeat  
You will enjoy whole wheat in this delicious form. Vita-Weat is whole wheat in crisp, thin wafers... nourishing and so satisfying.  
MADE BY PECK FREAN'S BISCUITS  
25¢ 1/2 lb. PACKET  
★ Give PECK FREAN'S Presentation TINS for Christmas Presents — 85c to \$3

UFAWU  
Rupert Shoreworkers, Local  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 8 P.M.  
Metropole Hall  
ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND

Slippers This Christmas  
LUCKY THE PERSON TO FIND A PAIR UNDER THE TREE  
MEN'S—Operas, Romeos, Felts. Fleece Lined  
LADIES—Moccasins, Wedgies, Mules, Felts, Slings—Fleece Lined  
CHILDREN'S—Adorable Animal Slippers, Moccasins, Romeos, Felts. Fleece Lined.  
FASHION FOOTWEAR  
YOUR CHRISTMAS STORE