

Monday, March 25, 1953	
Standard Time	
10:17	17.2 feet
23:19	17.1 feet
4:24	10.1 feet
16:55	6.2 feet

The Daily News

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City Asks Power Commission To Supply Electricity Here

Present Supplier To be Expropriated

The B.C. Power Commission will be asked to expropriate the holdings of the Northern B.C. Power Company Limited here and become the future supplier of electricity for Prince Rupert and district.

The motion, made by Ald. George Casey at council meeting last night, was passed unanimously.

Ald. Ray McLean, who told the council he had continued "to battle against such a move" until expert advice had been received by the city, said: "I have now changed my mind. I am in favor of Ald. Casey's motion."

The decision followed hearing of a report by M. A. Thomas, electrical consultant engineer hired by the city to investigate a proposal by the Northern B.C. Power Co. and the Power Commission's methods.

Mr. Thomas indicated the likelihood of Kitimat power being transmitted to Prince Rupert in the future and that the Commission would be in a more favorable position than the power company to accomplish such a project.

The report said that the Commission "is strongly considering" construction of a high-voltage transmission line from Kitimat to Terrace, 90 miles east of here.

NO INCREASE

Mr. Thomas also stated in his report that in his opinion power rates here would not be increased if the Commission took over. (Overall rate, which includes domestic, commercial and industrial service, being charged by the power company is 1.95 cents a kilowatt hour.)

The decision to swing to the B.C. Power Commission has the following immediate results:

- It puts an end to one of the greatest controversial issues in council for the past three years.

- It will put into effect a referendum passed by a slim majority here a year ago.

- It is the beginning of the end of the Northern B.C. Power Co. which purchased the power producing rights from the city in 1929 and has since supplied power here.

THREE CHOICES

The company's franchise was due to expire next year and the city was faced with three choices: to renew or make a new agreement with the power company; to invite the B.C. Power Commission to take over; or to take advantage of its option and operate its own power utility.

Council decided some time ago it would not entertain the latter, but making a choice between the power company and the Commission developed into a contentious issue on which opinion was more or less evenly divided.

Even the ratepayers were almost evenly matched in their choice when they voted on a referendum with less than 50 votes in favor of the Commission.

Main objection recently to inviting the commission to be Prince Rupert's future power supplier was lack of knowledge of major factors involved in such a transaction, according to

dissenting aldermen. To give council a clearer picture, city fathers hired Mr. Thomas to make a report which could be used as a "yardstick."

MAKE NEW SURVEY

Under the Electric Power Act, the Commission is now called upon to start expropriation proceedings and make a survey of the power company's holdings.

The Commission may then ask for approval from the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to establish a power district in Prince Rupert.

Then the Commission and the power company will attempt to agree on a price to be paid to the company for its holdings. If there is no agreement, the price is set by arbitration.

Council will leave decision to the Commission on whether the power company may install additional diesel equipment here to allay a possible power shortage in the future.

The company's application to do this has been in the hands of the Public Utilities Commission for several months, but hearing has been postponed at request of the city, pending its choice of the future supplier.

The proposed installation by the company was approved by Mr. Thomas in his report.

Britain To Buy B.C. Salmon

OTTAWA (CP)—Fisheries Minister Sinclair announced today Britain has agreed to purchase \$4,250,000 worth of British Columbia canned salmon.

He told the Commons the purchase results from conversations held with R. A. Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, during his recent visit to Canada.

Britain has bought no canned salmon from Canada since 1951. The minister gave no details as to the number of cases which might be purchased or the price per case.

A fisheries source outside the Commons said he thought the \$4,250,000 might purchase between 200,000 and 250,000 cases—or about half the carryover from the 1952 pack.

Atomic Blast Lights Sky

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (CP)—The second atomic blast of the 1953 spring series lit the sky over this desert gambling centre early today.

The flash appeared much brighter than that of the series opener a week ago.

Some 1,300 troops in foxholes 4,000 yards away (slightly more than two miles) observed the test.

Students Take up All Chairs To Watch Aldermen at Work

Avid interest in civic affairs has swung to a new quarter, shown by a crowded public gallery at last night's council meeting.

Occupying all available chairs—several were standing—were students of Booth Memorial High School, headed by teacher John Henry.

The group, welcomed specially by Mayor Harold Whalen, listened attentively while city fathers conducted the affairs of municipal government.

It is all part of the coming series of radio programs sponsored by local 708 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Paper and Sulphite Workers designed to create civic interest and understanding among students, Mr. Henry explained later.

The half-hour weekly program will consist of a panel of students asking questions of a panel of aldermen.

Collision Insurance Up 37%

By The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER. — A general 8.9-per-cent increase in car insurance rates, effective April 1, was announced today by the British Columbia Underwriters Association representing 150 companies.

The association also announced establishment of a new "preferred risk" category, under which car owners who qualify will pay 20 per cent less for public liability and property damage.

Requirements for the new "preferred risk" groups are: Applicant must have owned a car for at least three years, must have no regular drivers in his household under 25 years of age, and must not have been involved in an accident during the previous three years in which a claim was paid on the property damage or public liability part of his insurance.

H. Percy Baird, automobile secretary of the association, said "this is an attempt to bonus the responsible, accident-free driver."

He said the announced increases would have been higher except agents had agreed to take a reduction in commissions from 20 to 15 per cent.

Increased insurance rates are primarily for collision coverage, which will go up 28 per cent on Vancouver island, 10 per cent in Vancouver and New Westminster, 11 per cent in the Fraser Valley, and 37 per cent in the rest of the province.

1,000 Soldiers Leaving For Korean Front

TORONTO (CP)—More than 1,000 Canadian soldiers are travelling across Canada by train headed for a one-year tour of duty with the 25th Brigade in Korea.

They left training camps at Valcartier, Que., and Petawawa, Ont., during the weekend.

Meanwhile, 160 Canadians are scheduled to arrive at Seattle today after a year's fighting in Korea.

The third battalion Royal Canadian Regiment arrived in Korea Monday.

More than 500 crack troops of the 3rd battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment, led by Lt.-Col. J. G. (Tony) Poulin of Quebec, left Valcartier camp in special trains last Saturday night.

Almost 2,000 relatives and friends jammed the station area to give the troops a rousing send-off. Many of the men are returning to Korea for the second time in less than a year.

Defence Minister Claxton, addressing the troops in both French and English prior to their departure, said the unit is "an example of the unity of the people of Canada."

The battalion is composed of both French and English-speaking officers and men from many provinces, but about 50 per cent of them are from Montreal.

Two units held their final parade Saturday before their departure.

Maj.-Gen. B. A. Sparling, acting chief of general staff, took the salute at a march-past.

The units are the 81st field regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, commanded by Lt.-Col. W. H. Sterne, 40, of Brantford, Ont., and 23rd infantry workshop, commanded by Maj. V. W. Bethel, 36, of Winnipeg.



QUEEN MARY HAS LIVED to see the close of five reigns and her grand-daughter Queen Elizabeth II preparing to ascend the throne of Britain. Now 85, it was announced some time ago she would not attend the lengthy coronation service but probably would watch it on television. Born May 26, 1867, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck she outlived her husband, King George V, to become one of the Commonwealth's three living queens.

Queen Mary Failing; Family at Bedside

By The Canadian Press

LONDON—Ailing Queen Mary took a grave turn for the worse today and anxious doctors said her heart was weakening. She is 85. The proud old lady appeared to be sinking fast.

Members of the royal family, including the Duke of Windsor and the Duchess of Kent, began rushing to her bedside.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, also hurried to the aged Queen soon after Queen Mother Elizabeth arrived. She was dressed in black.

A medical bulletin posted on the gates of Queen Mary's Marlborough House residence near Buckingham Palace said:

"Queen Mary had a restless night due to a sudden occurrence of symptoms of gastric trouble. Her Majesty's condition is causing some anxiety."

It was signed by Sir Horace Evans, the Queen's physician, who specializes in kidney and arterial diseases, and Lord Webb-Johnson, her surgeon.

A crowd began gathering around Queen Mary's home.

Queen Mary has been confined to bed for more than a month by what doctors described as a recurrence of an old gastric ailment.

One London medical author-

Forest Act Amendments Approved

VICTORIA (CP)—Fishermen and hunters received attention in the British Columbia Legislature Monday.

During debate on an amendment to the Forests Act, opposition members noted that one section of the amendment says the owner of a forest management licence on crown timber lands can demand permission before any person can use roads built by the owner.

Tony Gargrave (CCF—MacKenzie), Leo Nimsick (CCF—Cranbrook), Dr. Larry Giovando (PC—Nanaimo) and others said fishermen and picnickers should have the right to use roads to get to otherwise inaccessible lakes and rivers as long as they don't interfere with logging traffic on those roads.

Forests Minister Robert Somers said the bill amends the statute that made it illegal to use such roads. Now the owner of roads must give permission or show cause why they should not be used.

Persons who are refused permission have the right of appeal to the minister.

The bill, which among other things requires private owners to reseed their cut-over land, received second reading, approval in principle.

Hospital Needs Additional \$51,000

A major problem which members of the Prince Rupert General Hospital Association will face at its Thursday annual meeting is finding an additional \$51,000 to pay for higher operating costs this year.

Budget for 1953 has been estimated at \$424,000, compared with the 1952 total costs of \$373,000 which has been set by B.C. Hospital Insurance as a "frozen" budget.

If hospitals fail to operate under the 1952 budget, they must find the additional finances themselves it has been stated by the B.C. government.

Dr. L. M. Greene, president of the board of directors, will present to the 100 association members certain aspects of the problem and possible solutions.

Firemen, City Fail to Reach Agreement on Wage Contract

Negotiations between the firemen and the city failed to reach an agreement on a wage contract last night. W. R. Long, reporting for the committee.

Boxer KAYOED IN RING Dies LATER IN HOSPITAL

CASTLETON, Pa. (CP)—A 17-year-old amateur boxer died Monday after being knocked out in a Golden Gloves bout. He was recovered by physicians said Clifton Johnson, 147-pound Negro, failed to regain consciousness after being admitted to hospital. He died in the third and final round by Charles Cator.

Press Tells Coroner's Jury Meeting With Fire Victims

The jury decided yesterday the five persons, who were recovered from the ruins of the King Hotel here died between March 15, as a result of a fire of unknown origin.

The fire destroyed the three-story hotel.

Witnesses appeared in court to testify in the coroner's inquest into the deaths of the five persons who were recovered from the ruins of the King Hotel here died between March 15, as a result of a fire of unknown origin.

Witnesses said they had met Mrs. Peters that night for the first time.

Mrs. Anna Prystay, wife of the proprietor of the King George, testified that she allowed Mrs. Peters the use of a hotplate.

"so she could make coffee in the morning."

Government electrical inspector or Albert McLean said he had last inspected the building in December, 1951, and it had been passed. "It certainly wasn't hazardous," he said.

Two physicians testified on examinations made of Mrs. Peters' body.

Dr. L. W. Kergin said he had performed a post mortem examination and in his opinion death was caused by burning. A hole in the skull also was the result of intense heat, he said.

Dr. L. M. Greene said he had examined the body at request of the woman's husband for positive identification. In his opinion, he said, the body was that of Mrs. Peters.

John Rees, a trainman, testified he turned in the fire alarm shortly after 2 a.m. on March 15 (Sunday) after he heard shouts and saw smoke coming from the King George. He said he rushed to the St. Elmo Hotel, next door, where he lived and telephoned the fire department.

Oil-Contractor Loses Lawsuit Against Oil Pipeline Company

COOPISTON, B.C. (CP)—Judge Campbell has dismissed a lawsuit Trans Mountain Oil Pipeline Company involving

the company's pipeline work in the area of Campbellton, B.C., which was made by Campbellton Ltd., sub-contractor of Trans Mountain and

the company's main contract involved a dispute over the cost of "extras" on the pipeline.

The court decision sets a precedent for laws governing the liabilities of pipeline companies.

Defence counsel during the hearing claimed the action under the Mechanics' Lien Act was invalid because it is a provincial law. The pipeline project is un-

der federal jurisdiction. In two other suits, Campbell-Bennett Ltd. seek to recover \$1,318,000, also for "extras." Defence counsel D. Brown said he plans to apply for dismissal of the claims.