

Friday, October 26, 1956

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. P. MACQUEEN, President
Subscription Rates:
By mail—per month, \$1.00; per year, \$10.00
By carter—per week, 25¢; per month, \$1.00; per year, \$10.00
Authorised as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

Sharp Opposition Needed

IT IS encouraging to learn that Premier Bennett, in setting February 7 for opening of the legislature, is choosing a date that will allow the opposition more time to prepare its case.

This show of solicitude is a welcome change from previous occasions when, to all appearances, our Social Credit government did not concede even the existence of an opposition. The impression was given that any criticism by the opposition was merely a waste of the government's time.

It is true, of course, that the government is now in a singularly good position to be indulgent. The trials it faced in the closing days of the last session are trials no longer; even though the outcome has not yet been decided. As far as the electorate is concerned, the case of Robert Sommers and its ramifications are clearly a side issue on which the merits of the government as a whole must not be judged.

That is well and good. But we trust that behind the statesmanlike gesture which Mr. Bennett is now making towards opposition members, there is an intention to heed them, not to humor them. Safe though he is numerically, he will be safer yet if he watches the spotlight of criticism as it plays on his ranks. He can turn it into a service for his government and the province if he lets it show up the weak spots which by himself he might be unable to observe.

Since the opposition is so small, the greatest danger to his government could come from his own side. Not so long ago his Alberta counterpart, Premier Manning, was given a rude shock when his government members, seemingly so numerous that they could do no wrong, were brought under fire for alleged abuse of their parliamentary position. Although they were finally cleared of any malpractice, it was obvious that their complacency had brought them to a dangerous position which they would have avoided if the strength of their government had been less certain.

For his own good if nothing else, Premier Bennett needs a sharp-witted opposition. More gestures like the one he is now making will help to guarantee that the men behind him are earning their keep.

Strange Commentary

CAMPAINING for votes at the November election in the United States, Vice-President Nixon told his audience that continuation of the Republican administration at Washington, would bring added material prosperity to the people of his country. He held up a promise that masses of citizens would have, among other things, two or three cars instead of one, three television sets where one now is, and a four-day work week.

Such prospects likely have an appeal to the general public. Yet to describe better living in terms of more cars and television sets as though they were the main goal of better living, seems a bleak commentary on the kind of community a community can put its new found wealth.

—Port William Daily Times-Journal.

Scriptures

And Abraham said to Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee between me and thee." Genesis 13:8.

Abraham came from Sumer that pre-dated Babylon. Palestine was a distant frontier thinly peopled. There was room for all. We do not have to impoverish others to be prosperous ourselves. Abraham wanted to share. That is the true way to abundance.

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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

PEIPING, China—As there are well over 50,000 young Chinese now enrolled in public and high schools, I cannot hope to give a personal report on how most of them are doing.

But I did get an excellent close-up look at the Middle School — that is high school — which is nearest to my own modern and comfortable Shinachio Hotel here in the capital city of China.

We drove the short distance to the school by a detour back-street route, for thousands of workmen with pick and shovel are digging a new sewer on the main road just inside the old city wall of Peiping.

The route we took was along a typical old-fashioned Peiping lane with life going on much as it must have done for generations past.

But inside the school ground of Middle School, Number 26, I found new and exciting ultra-modern developments.

AMERICANS BUILT SCHOOLS

We were met at the front door of the school office by principal Chang and another official whom I took to be his executive assistant or perhaps the political commissar—who knows?

We began and ended the morning with tea in the principal's office, and between times we inspected the various classrooms and other school activities.

I learned the school itself was built in 1871 by American Protestant missionaries and operated until 1952 under their auspices.

According to the principal, the highest number of students enrolled under the old regime was 1,500—with just over 800 in the years before "liberation"—which is the invariable required Chinese Communist term to describe the culmination of the revolution.

Now there are 2,833 pupils—all boys—enrolled in this one school alone.

SIX YEARS COURSE

There are two shifts—the majority coming in the morning from 7:40 to 12:30—the remainder in the afternoon.

The whole course takes six years—that is, there are three years in junior high and three years in senior high—all under the one administration.

There are 160 teachers for the 2,833 pupils and they receive an average wage of 110 yuan per month.

As the yuan is worth just 56 cents to the American dollar, it is obvious that the Peiping teachers are very lowly paid in comparison with ours.

But I hasten to add that, with the seemingly low pay there goes housing for the teachers, provided right on the ground, at very low rentals, and with heat and light thrown in free.

Also, in the new China, there is an overall health and social security system which looks after hospital bills, and which provides pensions for school teachers at the age of 60 if they then choose to retire. It even provides expense money for weddings and funerals.

However, I must report that the most dynamic looking teacher whom I saw and heard in action in the classroom, was age 72. Her teaching maths and physics, not only paying attention to non-Chinese, even to peak at foreign visitors.

LESSONS ARE COMPULSORY. The curriculum is compulsory. That is, the student has less freedom of choice than is now customary in Canada.

There is obviously an increasing emphasis on the physical sciences. In the physics labs (of which there were three) I saw whole racks of brand new equipment for demonstrating electrical devices. Likewise in the

(Continued on Page 5)
see PHILPOTT

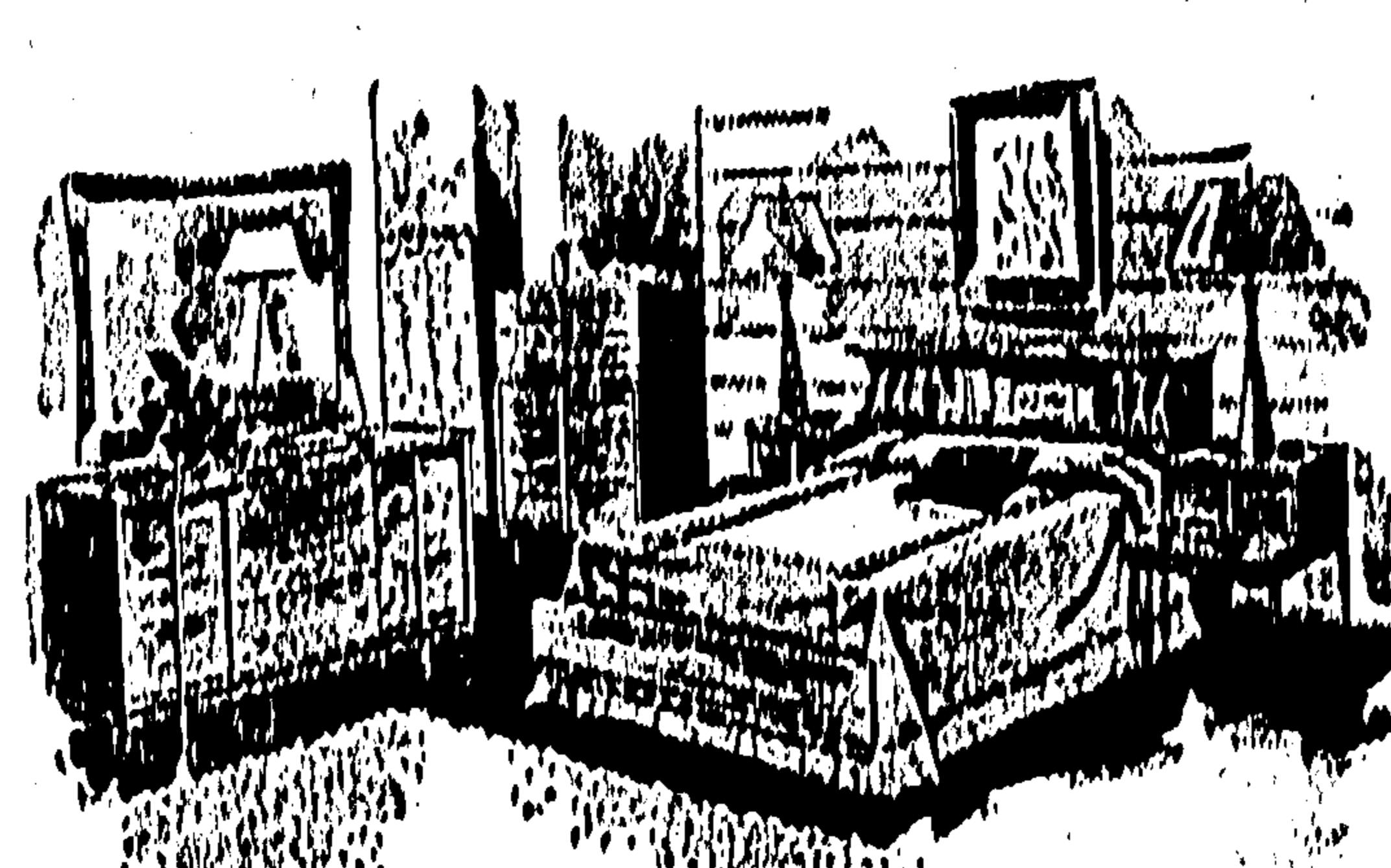
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OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MACLEOD

National Health and Welfare Minister Paul Martin is off shortly across the Pacific on a three-pronged mission.

First of all he is to officiate as Canadian representative at the Olympic Games in Australia.

Then he proceeds to New Zealand, where he will head the Canadian delegation at the Colombo Plan Conference.

Finally, he is to do a goodwill tour of upwards of a dozen Asiatic countries including India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Indo-China, Viet-Nam, Burma and others.

The goodwill mission to Asia is easily the most important of Hon. Mr. Martin's three assignments. It is the most extensive project of this kind which the Canadian Government has yet undertaken. Considerably more territory will be covered and a greater number of Far-Eastern countries visited than by either the Prime Minister on his world tour or by External Affairs Minister on his trip of a year ago.

The National Health and Welfare Minister will be away for two months. Both the time which is being allotted to the mission, as well as its extensiveness, furnish evidence of the growing appreciation by the government of the importance of Asia in the rapidly-developing world picture. The conviction is growing on Parliament Hill that the influences which will shape the world of tomorrow are in process of incubation and awakening today amongst the peoples of Asia and of the Arab world.

There is a strong feeling in Ottawa circles regardless of political bias that Canada has got off to an excellent start in winning the friendship of the peoples of Asia, particularly in the South-East area. Proportionately to Canadian population figures, our contribution to the Colombo Plan has been generous. But more important than its general

I saw some of the boys getting excellent training in high jumping. The coach was teaching them the proper technique for sailing over the bar in the horizontal position—that is, in the same manner as to those Olympic Champs who clear the bar at six feet and higher.

Maybe I am long since out of date, for I haven't paid much attention to high jump training since I used to win prizes at it myself, about 40 years ago.

So maybe our sports page writers will laugh at my obscurity. I want to record the fact that the Chinese coach was teaching the boys to sail over the lower bar by placing another bar about three feet above the one to be cleared—and thus forcing the athlete to sail through in the three feet space between two bars.

COLLECTIVE TEACHING. In the actual teaching methods, the Chinese have one other technique of which I had not space given for this was very heard in Canada. They prepare, all lessons collectively—especially among the younger teachers, and in the lower grades.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the generous donations received from various civic firms and private citizens for the support of a basketball team in the Vancouver Senior League. Special thanks to Mr. Art Murray for inaugurating the idea and to the Daily News for their handling and publicity of the collection. The front

of Prince Rupert in fair play and victory. So they will know where we are from we are calling ourselves, "PRINCE RUPERT."

The general idea is that each teacher can benefit from hearing how the others go about teaching that particular lesson.

This practice has been evolved partly because of the literally enormous expansion of the Chinese educational system. There is a drastic scarcity of teachers here—worse than ours by far.

It makes us all feel great to be sponsored by our home town and we promise to do our best to uphold the reputation of Prince Rupert in fair play and victory. So they will know where we are from we are calling ourselves, "PRINCE RUPERT."

W. H. Morrison Fred Kristman Ron Ciccone Gary Morkon Arty Iltiene Greig Forbes Reynold McKay, Vancouver, B. C.

VANCOUVER — United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union is reported to be appealing for support in a new bid to rejoin the Canadian Labor Congress.

The fisherman's union was suspended by the former Trades and Labor Congress three years ago for alleged Communist domination.

Officials of the union say "several" other unions have replied favorably to requests for support. They did not name the unions they said are backing their bid.

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Northern Cities

To Hold Talks

November 7

Re-organization of the Association of North Central Municipalities so that the northland may derive the benefits of a large and specialized group whose main concern is the problems of this region, will be discussed at a meeting November 7 at Smithers.

The North Central region is the only part of British Columbia not covered by an organization of this sort.

Mayor George E. Hills will represent Prince Rupert.

Possibility of reviving the organization was discussed after the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention, Alderman P. J. Lester reported. He said that Kitimat and Prince George wanted to get together to form the association so they would be in a better position to exercise action in a concerted effort for benefit of the north country.

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