

ORMES
Daily Delivery
DIAL 2151
DRUGS

The Daily News

Published at Canada's Most Strategic Pacific Port — And Key to the Great Northwest

VOL. XLV, No. 49.

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1956.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY,
VICTORIA, B.C.

166
**TOMORROW'S
TIDES**

Wednesday, February 29, 1956.
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	3:22	22.2 feet
	15:47	20.1 feet
Low	9:42	3.2 feet
	21:46	4.0 feet

Billion Dollars For B.C. Roads

Bennett Claims Tolls Needed To Catch Up 40 Years Work

VICTORIA (CP)— Expenditure of one billion dollars on new highways and bridges in British Columbia during the next 10 years is planned by the Social Credit government, Premier Bennett said Monday.

Family Of 10 Homeless After Blaze

A Skidegate Mission family of 10 was left temporarily homeless yesterday when an early morning fire wiped out their two-story home and all their belongings. Only eight of the family were asleep at home at the time.

Fleeing into the night when fire swept the six-room house at Skidegate Mission were Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Young, Ruth Young and her two children aged 3 and 4, Loretta and Georgia Young and Percy Brook. Two other sons, Victor and Robert, were away working at the Northern Pulpwood Company plant at Sandspit.

The fire was discovered at 3 a.m. Monday by 19-year-old Ronald Krug who with a friend noticed flames within the Young house. Krug aroused all eight members of the family and then raced through the village arousing the volunteer fire department and other villagers.

Poor water pressure, despite a new modern water system at Skidegate Mission, hampered fire fighters' efforts. The house was a total loss. Only persons who managed to get out a few personal belongings were Georgia and Loretta.

The emergency committee of the Skidegate Mission village council, headed by Rev. Lloyd Hooper, immediately went into action and arrangements were made to look after the family.

The Red Cross in Vancouver shipped up blankets today and also authorized the purchase of \$900 personal clothing for the family in Skidegate. The family is being moved into a house owned by Louis Collier. A food shower is being staged tonight by the Young Adult Group of the Spencer Memorial United Church; the Oliver Women's auxiliary is staging a kitchenware shower; the Spencer Memorial WA is holding a dishes and cutlery shower.

The statement was made by the premier during an impassioned defence of the province's Toll Highways and Bridges Authority.

The bill increasing the authority's borrowing power from 50 million to 80 million dollars was given second reading—approval in principle—after prolonged opposition criticism.

"We're having to use tolls to catch up on work not done in the last 40 years," he said.

The huge expansion should be timed at bringing more tourists from the western United States to B.C., he said.

The present tourist revenue of 90 million dollars a year should be increased 10 times.

Leo Nimsiek (CCF-Cranbrook) claimed the government was giving the toll authority a "blank cheque" and said every new bridge should be approved by the legislature or an independent planning board.

Liberal Leader Arthur Laing said tolls were coming into disfavor in the U.S. and said the toll authority in B.C. was "un-sound" and was going to cause trouble. He called a toll "an uneven charge on the people of B.C."

Mr. Van Wallegham said he had "least of all expected Sgt. Wildgoose to bring up" the Sunday incident as he had not been summoned and did not feel that it had any bearing on the application.

"I am not convicted, nor am I going to disclose my defence in case a charge should be laid," the taxi owner said.

Before going into a committee of the whole council Mayor George E. Hills said he wished to register a complaint against a closed session as he felt it was public business which would be discussed.

Ald. A. Don Ritchie defended the closed session saying that certain statements had been made about a city resident which shouldn't have been made and that he felt further discussion should take place in closed committee.

Ald. Mike Krueger added that he was against closed meetings but remarks made in this instance called for a closed session.

Ald. Peter J. Lester advocated open committee meetings in all "these cases."

"When is a person's debt to society paid?" he asked.

He said that he could not see why he should lose his livelihood and be assured council that if he was re-instated, he would proceed worthy of it.

Sgt. Wildgoose said the taxi man had been convicted February 1, 1955 for selling liquor to an Indian and had his licence revoked three days later and then had been convicted under the liquor act on February 19 last year. The RCMP sergeant said a further conviction had resulted from the taxi man's driving without a city chauffeur's permit in August, 1955.

Sgt. Wildgoose said that a further charge under the liquor act may be laid against Mr. Van Wallegham as a result of an incident Sunday which is under investigation by the city detachment at the present time.

"This man has shown no particular tendency to keep within the law," the RCMP sergeant said.



TERRACE GIRL IN ACTION — Wrens attendings HMCS Cornwallis, the navy's training establishment at Cornwallis, N.S., take judo lessons as part of their training. Able Wren Lois Courtwright of Terrace, B.C., slips judo instructor CPO Douglas McCulloch of Edmonton in this photo.

City Council Rejects Chauffeur Permit Appeal

An application by a city taxi operator to have his city chauffeur's permit re-instated was turned down last night after his appearance before city council.

Unsuccessful attempt to regain permit, cancelled a year ago because of liquor law infractions, was made by Rene Van Wallegham.

Decision of the council was reached during a closed meeting of a committee of the whole council, after both Mr. Van Wallegham and Sgt. Adam Wildgoose, NCO in charge of the city RCMP detachment had made representations to an open council meeting.

Mr. Van Wallegham said he had lost his permit February 4, 1955 and admitted that he had a number of convictions.

But he said:

"Under the liquor act, the sentence is only 12 months. The taximan said that since the death of his brother Joseph, last year, he had been left with more of an investment than he had been prepared for. He added that since his city permit had been revoked he had driven cab, operating out of Port Edward, but "there was no money in it."

Mr. Van Wallegham said he had been caught by the use of police informers and had paid his fines.

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Mr. Haugan also reported that a successful school had been conducted at Terrace resulting in ten students receiving their wings.

During the year three aircraft were disposed of and plans were made for the acquisition of two more.

He said the year was successful financially and as a result of the year's activities the club has quite rehabilitated the Aero club headquarters.

Mr. Brewerton, the new president is a well-known local wholesaler and a pilot of three-year standing. He received his wings from the local flying club in 1953. He has previously served as secretary and vice-president.

Lands Minister Sommers Quits Cabinet Portfolios

CCF Leader Demands Full Inquiry "Nothing Less Will Satisfy"

VICTORIA (CP)— Opposition leader Arnold Webster Monday night demanded a "full and immediate judicial inquiry—following the resignation of Lands and Forest Minister Sommers."

"Nothing less than the whole truth will satisfy the people," said the CCF leader. "Everything the minister said strengthens the opposition's case for a full and immediate judicial inquiry."

Liberal leader Arthur Laing said he would not comment until the resignation is accepted by Premier Bennett.

The premier said he would make an announcement today in the legislature.

"Naturally, as premier and leader of this government, I will have to give this letter consideration," he said when Mr. Sommers finished reading his statement of resignation.

"I will make a statement on it to the House tomorrow," he said. Progressive Conservative leader Deane Finlayson, not an elected member, said from his home in Courtenay, B.C.:

"Lands Minister Sommers has not strengthened his own position by resigning.

"The first thing that strikes me is that he would have done himself and his government a far greater service if he had remained and proved to the satisfaction of the people of B.C. that the charges were false.

"His resignation doesn't clarify anything."

Parks Board Bid For Funds Cut To \$6,000

A request by the Board of Parks Commissioners for an interim budget to carry on current work was granted at last night's city council meeting, but the amount was trimmed to \$6,000 from the requested \$8,000.

The board informed council that \$5,511 would be needed to make up the \$13,500 contract bid by Kalen Gravel Company for grading and draining a playing surface at Algona Park. Balance of the money, \$7,989, is left from the Algona Park fund.

Included in the \$8,000 requested by the Parks Board was \$1,880 for 1955 over-expenditures, \$71.58 for outstanding bills, \$400 to clear brush at the rear of the McLymont Park bath house and \$150 to remove six-foot drain tile from Montreal Circle.

In moving that the amount be pared to \$6,000, Ald. Mike Krueger said that at the moment, the question of last year's deficit was not too important.

Ald. Peter J. Lester said that as the city would be granting the Parks Board an amount in excess of \$6,000 later on they should pass the \$6,000 budget now. Ald. Lester voted against the motion "not on granting the money, only on cutting down the amount."

Case was adjourned until 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Vessels Sought In London For B.C.-Russian Voyages

LONDON (Reuters) — Shipping circles here said today that inquiries have been received in London for vessels to carry 200,000 tons of wheat from British Columbia to Vladivostok and Nahodka, Russian Pacific ports.

A Canadian wheat spokesman here declined comment. The shipping report said the inquiry mentioned a freight charge of 15 shilling a ton with free discharge for March, April or May loadings.

A Canadian trade department official said in Ottawa Monday night that Canadian and Soviet negotiators had concluded a draft trade agreement which was being studied by their governments.

Stabbing Described For Court

A statement that he had been accused of insulting a man's wife and owed him money before he was attacked and stabbed was made this morning in police court by 24-year-old Perry Mork, apprentice electrician at Kildmat, who was wounded in a fracas in front of his parents' home.

Mork, victim of a February 7 stabbing, named Earl Morris Gamblin, 19, as his attacker and denied that he had either insulted Mrs. Gamblin or owed him any money.

The statements were made as Gamblin went on trial this morning charged with assaulting Perry Mork with intent to wound. He is also charged with assaulting Helmer Mork, father of the youth, occasioning bodily harm. Gamblin entered a plea of not guilty to the first charge, through his counsel R. Gordon Vosburgh, of Terrace.

Mork, who said he had not met Gamblin before he had seen him earlier that day, said that he and the accused had almost come to blows on the train coming from Kildmat.

He admitted being stopped from taking a swing at Gamblin with a whiskey bottle by the train conductor after Gamblin had sat down uninvited with him and a woman passenger.

Mork said Gamblin had climbed into the same taxi as he had at the Prince Rupert CNR depot and the accused had left the cab when it had stopped at the Mork address, 108 Seventh Avenue East.

The plaintiff told the driver, Clifford Dahl to drive around the block and had then got out of the cab in front of his own house. Gamblin was not visible, but had met him at the gate and put a knife at his throat, Perry Mork said.

In an ensuing altercation, Helmer Mork had come out of the house and Gamblin had "taken a swipe" at the older Mork, the apprentice electrician said.

TUSSED WITH ACCUSED

The defendant said he had tussled with Gamblin and had felt himself stabbed in the back and shoulder.

Taxidriver Dahl said Gamblin appeared surprised to find Mork in the cab at the station, but that Gamblin agreed to get out at the Mork home when the plaintiff had given the address.

Mr. Dahl said Gamblin had added "the whole you have you'll do you any good either."

The driver said after letting Mork off he had turned the cab around and had seen Gamblin with a grip on young Mork and had heard the pair shouting.

TWISTED HIS ARM

When the older Mork had said "he's got a knife," the taximan had got out of the car and twisted Gamblin's arm back and told him to let go of the knife.

Dr. W. S. Kerigin who treated Perry Mork at hospital said the youth was suffering from shock when he had first seen him and had several wounds, most of them superficial. However, one wound on the left side had penetrated the lung. Dr. Kerigin said the younger Mork would require another month's recuperation to allow the lung to heal.

Case was adjourned until 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Plans To Fight Bribery Charges

VICTORIA (CP) — Robert Sommers Monday night resigned his cabinet portfolios, announcing he will channel all his energies to fighting what he said are charges he accepted bribes as British Columbia forests minister.

Mr. Sommers announced his resignation as lands and forests minister and mines minister as the legislature began discussion on his salary. He did not resign the Rossland-Trail seat he has held since the Social Credit party took office in 1952.

Premier Bennett arose to say he would consider the resignation and probably would make a statement in the House today on the bomb shell development that followed weeks of opposition criticism and demand.

Mr. Sommers said the time had arrived to break his silence on a matter "which has been brulled about in the House in a most irresponsible and reprehensible manner."

"Never at any time have I used my ministerial office, for personal gain, either directly or indirectly, either morally or technically," he said.

"To the best of my knowledge I have never, at any time, violated the oath of office that I took on becoming a minister of the crown."

Industrial Concerns Included

Mr. Sommers said he had been accused of accepting bribes and that the names of several important industrial corporations had been brought into the accusations.

He referred to a suit for slander he has started against Vancouver lawyer David Sturdy. The suit is based on charges made by Mr. Sturdy before a royal commission into the forestry industry.

"The charges that have been made—and I regret that I cannot express an opinion on them at this time because they are part of a court action—involve not only myself,

IMPORTANT FACTORS

"Also named are several important industrial corporations—companies that have been and still are important factors in the development of this province."

The resignation announcement was at the end of a statement, when Mr. Sommers said:

"In view of the unprincipled discussion which has occupied a great deal of this House and in view of the partisan political attacks resulting from these discussions, and because the public business of this province could have suffered through this irresponsible discussion and because this action will give me more opportunity to concentrate all my energies on this fight, I therefore, tender my resignation as minister of lands and forests and minister of mines to the honorable premier."

FORMER PRINCIPAL

Mr. Sommers, 45-year-old former school principal, said what he called partisan political attacks on him were conducted "particularly" by Stuart Keate, publisher of the Victoria Daily Times, in conjunction with Liberal members.

Names "Political" Attackers

He named Liberals as Liberal leader Arthur Laing, George Gregory, member for Victoria, and Bruce Brown, member for Prince Rupert.

The present standing in the House is Social Credit 26, CCF 14, Liberals 4 and Independent 2.

The attacks on Mr. Sommers since the legislature opened Jan. 17 have come from all opposition quarters. They concerned an attempt by Mr. Sturdy to present evidence to the forestry royal commission.

Mr. Sturdy was prohibited from presenting the evidence before royal commissioner Chief Justice Gordon Sloan when Attorney-General Bonner refused to extend the authority of the royal commission.

CHARGES LABEL

Mr. Sturdy had made a brief appearance on behalf of an unnamed client and on the basis of what he said, Mr. Sommers issued a writ of libel and slander against the lawyer.

Mr. Sturdy then filed a defence action.

Both Mr. Sommers and the attorney-general were criticized and their resignations were demanded by the Liberal leader and CCF leader Arnold Webster.

Mr. Sommers said that since he took office as forests minister "my department and myself personally have been subjected to a continuous and increasingly bitter attack."

STAKES ARE LARGE

"The stakes are large enough to warrant the expenditure of the hundreds and thousands of dollars that have been lavished by this campaign of destruction in the last 3 1/2 years."

"The ultimate objective, I can assure you, is to wipe out all legislation that provides for government control in the cutting of our forests."

Mr. Sommers bore the brunt of a Liberal attack in the legislature during the 1955 session when Liberal Gordon Gibson resigned his Lillooet riding to protest the government's policy on forest management.

Crucial portion of the current Sloan forestry commission has been taken up by inquiry into forest management licenses. The licenses cover vast areas of government-owned forest land and give the holder sole right to cut in return for managing the areas on a sustained-yield basis.

BULLETIN

VICTORIA (CP) — Premier Bennett today announced that Education Minister Ray Wiliston had been appointed as minister of lands and forests to succeed R. E. Sommers who resigned last night. Agriculture Minister Kenneth Kieran will become minister of mines. Mr. Sommers' other portfolio, the premier said,

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Ambulance-Call System Satisfactory Lodge Told

A suggestion from the Sons of Norway lodge that the method of summoning the Prince Rupert Ambulance in cases of emergency be changed was not considered by the city council last night.

Council after hearing the proposal contained in a letter from the lodge decided to inform the SON that the city finds the present system satisfactory.

SON president P. L. Peterson informed council that under the present system whereby the ambulance can be called only on the authority of a doctor, the police or an industrial first aid unit, too much time could be lost. The letter suggested that anyone be allowed to summon the ambulance with the charge

WEATHER

Cloudy with rain showers at times mixed with snow today and Wednesday. Little change in temperature. Light winds. Low tonight and high Wednesday at Port Hardy 35 and 42, Sandspit and Prince Rupert 32 and 34.

made to the patient or the caller.

Ald. Kay Smith, chairman of the health and social assistance committee said that one reason the restrictions had been brought into effect was because of indiscriminate use of the ambulance for people who were found afterward not to have needed the service.

R. W. Long, city clerk informed council that no ambulance patient can be admitted to the hospital until the doctor orders the admittance. He added that in actual fact, admittance to the hospital took a longer period of time if the ambulance was summoned directly.

"Just phoning the ambulance direct was not the answer," Mr. Long said.

Indicted Negro Pastor Says City Can't Afford To Make Criminals Out Of 24 Preachers

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A Negro minister indicted in Montgomery's bus boycott told a cheering throng at a mass meeting on Monday night that "no city in the world can afford to make criminals out of 24 of its preachers."

This declaration by Rev. I. R. Bennett came after church groups in other sections of the country expressed concern over the arrest of 24 Montgomery Negro ministers for leading the protest against segregation on city buses.

Pastor Bennett of the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal church, together with other indicted Negro clergymen, spoke at a meeting marking the end of the boycott's 12th week. Cheering Negroes responded enthusiastically when their leaders promised to continue the protest movement.

In the state's other tense racial situation, meanwhile, Autherine Lucy, the University of Alabama's first Negro student, prepared to go into federal court in Birmingham Wednesday seeking an order returning her to the

campus from which she was driven by an angry mob.

The 26-year-old Birmingham woman, university officials and other subpoenaed witnesses were to appear at the hearing.

The university board of trustees said they excluded Miss Lucy for reasons of safety Feb. 6 following violent day-long disorders sparked by her presence at classes.

While Negro leaders here reaffirmed their intentions of continuing the bus boycott, they called for members of their race to continue to shun violence.